

★ WHO'S THE BEST—RUSSELL OR CHAMBERLAIN? ★

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 1, Issue 9
February 24, 1986



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HERE COMES ANOTHER BIRD





Fred Walker Wins Lite/Channel 56 All-Star Sweepstakes and Heads For Dallas.

DALLAS BOUND --- Fred Walker of Beverly, a retired postal employee, (right), won the LITE/CHANNEL 56 All-Star Sweepstakes and will be joining Celtics stars Kevin McHale and Larry Bird at the All-Star game at Reunion Arena, Dallas, Texas, February 9. Bill Palmer of Newbury, 2nd left, who accompanies Walker to all the Celtics games, will also make the trip to Dallas. Walker won the drawing for the all-expenses paid trip for two to the All-Star game and all the weekend festivities. Larry Bird, who received 702,000 votes in the balloting throughout the country, will be in the starting lineup for the East Conference. Kevin McHale, left, and Robert Parish (not shown) also will represent the Celtics in the contest. Celtics coach K.C. Jones will coach the East Conference squad.

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

A WESTON COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATION

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Celtics Pride is published twice per month during the basketball season and monthly in the off-season.
All rights reserved by Weston Communications, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840
Postage paid at Mansfield, MA and additional offices. Subscription rate is \$20.00 for 20 issues. Foreign subscriptions are \$40.00 for 20 issues.
Single copy is \$1.50. Postmaster send address changes to CELTICS PRIDE, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9 FEBRUARY 24, 1986

Cover...

Former All-Star Scott Wedman has been showing all NBA fans why the Celtics wanted him so badly.

Features...

4. Russell vs. Chamberlain

If you went by numbers alone this would be an easy question to answer but no....

7. Robert Parish

Ten days in the life of the "Chief" that happened to be very productive.

8. Scott Wedman

When Kevin McHale was hurt the Celtics didn't miss a beat. The big reason was the play of the Celtics "Ace Relief Pitcher."

10. Eddie Bird

Yes, there is another Bird coming—He's Larry Bird's little brother — and he can play.

14. Lakers Rematch

The Lakers returned to the Garden for the first time since last season's championship series.

21. Special Olympics Fashion Show

On March 6, 1986 the Celtics family will present the third annual Dinner, Fashion Show and Auction.

24. Kim Wedman

The very popular wife of Celtics' Scott has thrived through the rigors of many NBA seasons.

Departments...

3 — Ask Red

6 — Innerview

11 — K.C.'s Corner

12 — M.L. Carr

16 — Celtics Poster

18 — Celtics Confidential

19 — Game-by-Game Review

20 — Eddie Gillooly

22 — Glenn Ordway

26 — NBA Notebook

28 — Celtics Calendar

30 — Celtics Classics

31 — Celtics Greats



EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: How long does an NBA team retain the rights to a drafted player if the player does not sign that year?

Mark Williams,
Braintree, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: Actually, the answer to the question is very complicated. If a team drafts a player, can't sign him and he plays in another professional league (Europe, for example), they retain the rights to that player for one year beyond his return to the United States. If he sits out entirely, the team has until the day before the next draft to sign him. Then, he goes back into the draft and is subject to all the same rules again if he is drafted; if he's not drafted, then he is a free agent. Got it?

QUESTION: I noticed in the recent Atlanta game that on one occasion an official was in the way and interfered with the successful completion of a possible three-point play. Is there a rule that would give us the basket?

Nancy Byars,
Hartford, Ct.

RED'S ANSWER: No. Except for goal tending and the new rule in the NBA that prohibits a player from pulling an opponent down from behind on a breakaway, there is no rule that just gives you a basket. Also, an official on the court is always considered as if he were just another element of the court. If the ball hits him, it's still live; if it goes out of bounds, it's off the team that last touched it; if he gets in a player's way, the player has to get around him. Generally, officials in our league are able to stay out of the way, quite a feat considering the speed of the players.

QUESTION: I've noticed all the big names in the NBA, such as Larry Bird, Patrick Ewing, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar or Clark Kellogg, wear the number 33. Is there any reason why? Also, when choosing numbers to go on their jersey, can they choose any number? Can the same number that a past Celtic has had be chosen again?

Laura Snyder,
Scarborough, Maine

RED'S ANSWER: There's no reason that great players happen to wear the same number. In fact, you might just as well have asked about almost any other number. Kevin McHale and Magic Johnson

Ask Red Auerbach

both wear number 32. A player in basketball can pick just about any number he wants, as long as it hasn't been retired by his team or another teammate isn't wearing it. In football, on the other hand, you can only pick a number within a certain range, depending on the position you play. To answer your last question, we definitely re-use numbers over and over again; check our Media Guide sometime for a complete listing of all the players who have worn each number. However, we have a total of 16 numbers which have been retired, including the number 1, for Walter Brown, and the number 2, for me. By the way, Moses Malone also wears the number 2.

QUESTION: Is it my imagination, or have the backboards gotten smaller? Also, are the backboards and rims manufactured by the same company to ensure uniformity?

Michael J. Simmons,
Worcester, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: No, it's not your imagination. This year, six inches have been removed from the bottom of the backboards used in NBA arenas. The decision to do that stems from the slam-dunk competition during last year's All-Star Weekend, when

Julius Erving of the 76ers banged his head while dunking. It was decided last summer that we could prevent further injury by reducing the size of the backboard. All the backboards and rims used in NBA arenas are supplied by a company called Toss-Back.

QUESTION: Micheal Ray Richardson was recently allowed to come back to the Nets. I thought once a player was caught on drugs, he was banned from the NBA? Why wasn't he?

Ernest Reed,
Boston, Ma.

RED'S ANSWER: Actually, it is true that if an NBA player is caught on drugs, he will be dismissed from the league. But if he voluntarily turns himself in, that's different. The first time he turns himself in, he is given drug rehabilitation and continues to be paid by his team. The second time, he will again be given help, but this time he will be suspended without pay. A third-time offender will be permanently dismissed by the league, although he can apply for reinstatement after two years. Micheal Richardson has turned himself in twice; the next time, he'll be dismissed. Either way, once a player has come out of a drug clinic, he is subject to spot-testing whenever the league thinks it's necessary.

THE CELTICS HAVE A NEW NUMBER



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Numbers Don't Tell The Story

Who Was Better - Russell or Chamberlain?

The debate has raged on for almost three decades-- who was better Wilt Chamberlain or Bill Russell? Clearly, both pivot men were two of the most superior talents ever to set foot in the NBA.

During the course of their careers, they butted heads many a time, in the regular season, playoffs and in several championship series. Each confrontation was a battle of gargantuan proportions, as each of the two men set out to prove that he, not the other, was indeed supreme.

Chamberlain, of course, has set so many offensive standards that the NBA record book almost looks like his autobiography. No one will ever come close to matching Wilt's scoring average of 50.4 points a game, which he achieved in 1961-62, nor will anyone ever dream of scoring 100 points in a single game, as Chamberlain did that same season. Chamberlain led the league in scoring seven times, field goal percentage nine times, in rebounding 11 times and in assists once. Chamberlain is the only non-guard to ever pace the NBA in the latter department.

Chamberlain was the league's most valuable player four times, a feat accomplished by Russell on five occasions. Russell was the NBA's top rebounder four times and was never the league's top point-getter.

Let's take a closer look at the career statistics of Chamberlain and Russell.

It doesn't take a Ph.D from MIT to see that Chamberlain far outdistances Russell in virtually every statistical category. Wilt, in just one more season than Russell, had over 2,000 more rebounds, more than double the field goals, barely twice the number of free throws, more than 500 more assists and just about doubled Russell's career scoring average.

It should also be noted that Chamberlain averaged some 46 minutes of playing time per game during his career! Chamberlain is in addition the only NBA player ever to score 3,000 or 4,000 points in a single season.

However, the numbers don't tell the whole story in comparing Chamberlain and Russell. Winning is the bottom line, and on that score, there is no comparison. Russell was a member of 11 championship teams, serving as player-coach on two of those Celtics clubs. Chamberlain only has two championship rings in his trophy case.

Russell and Chamberlain led teams met in playoff competition seven times, and only once did the



Can anyone ever average 50 points a game again?

latter squad prevail. That was in 1966-67, when the Sixers beat the Celtics in five games in the Eastern finals, and went on to win the NBA title.

Mel Counts a former longtime NBA Player, is the only one ever to be a teammate of Russell and Cham-

	YRS	G	FGA-FGM	PCT	FTA-FTM	PCT	REBS	AST	PTS	AVG
Russell	13	963	12930-5687	.440	5614-3148	.561	21620	4100	14522	15.1
Chamberlain	14	1045	23497-12681	.540	11862-6057	.511	23924	4643	31412	30.1

berlain. Contacted at his home in Oregon, Counts was asked to compare the two giants. He left little doubt as to who was his favorite.

"I always tell people if I were to start a team, the first guy I'd pick would be Russell," Counts says. "Even among the guys playing today. Russell was a winner. He knew what

it took to win.

"He wasn't a great shooter or a great ballhandler, but he was one of the greatest rebounders and defensive players ever. Russell made people realize the importance of defense. He revolutionized the game.

"Russ was able to make the big play when it was critical. He had a way of intimidating opposing players. He commanded the respect of teammates and opposing players.

Counts wasn't done yet in his lavish praise of Russell. "And you have to remember Russell wasn't a big center. He was about 6-9, 215

pounds. He played against guys taller and heavier than he was."

One of those men was Chamberlain.

"Wilt's the strongest man to ever play the game," Counts says. "He's one of the great scoring threats of all time. How many guys can say they scored 100 points in a game or averaged 50 points a game in a season."

"Chamberlain wasn't as quick as Russell in getting to players and the ball. He didn't have Russell's mobility." Counts believes that Russell and Chamberlain concentrated on different elements of the game.

"Later in Wilt's career, he implemented (an emphasis on) defense and rebounding," Counts says. "Maybe he had something to prove earlier in his career as far as scoring was concerned."

Bailey Howell, another former Celtic and veteran NBA player, would take Russell over Chamberlain--or anyone for that matter.

"I think Bill was the most valuable player to ever play the game," Howell says. "If Wilt would've patterned his game after Russell's and concentrated on defense and covering the defensive boards and making the quick outlet pass, Wilt would've gone down as the greatest center ever to play the game."

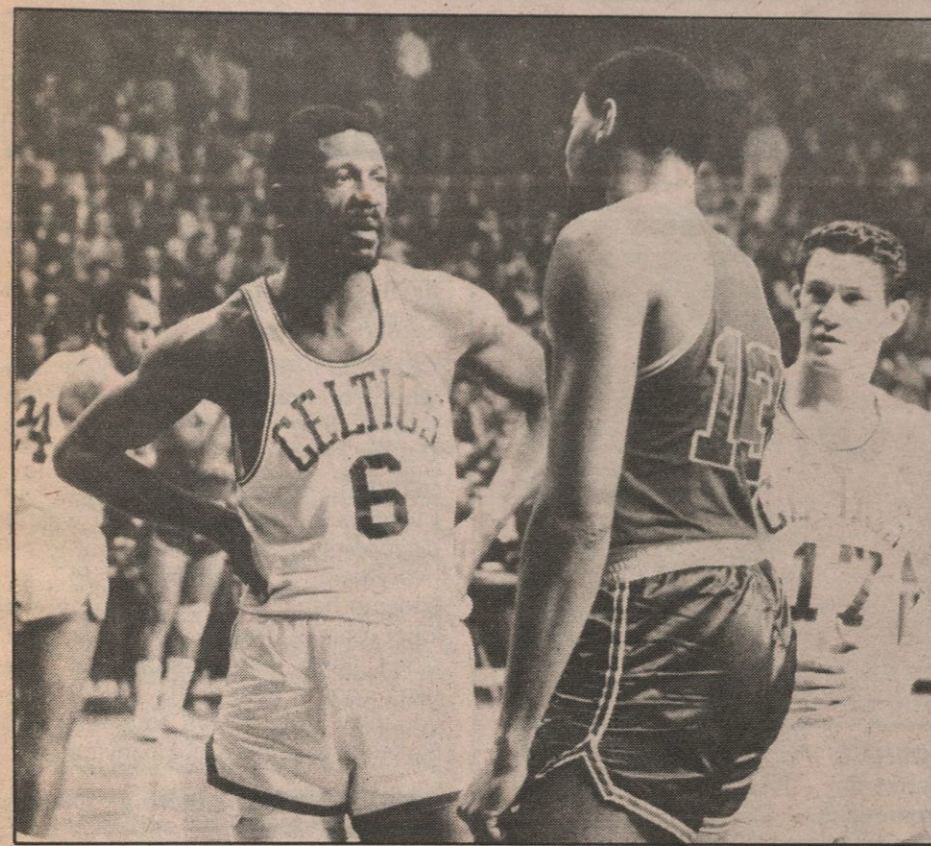
"Wilt wants to do things his way, play his style, which was score a lot of points. It wasn't until later in his career that he concentrated on other things. Whether that was by design or not, I don't know."

Red Auerbach knows which center he'd take. "I don't expect to see anyone like Wilt again in my lifetime," Auerbach once said. "but if you're asking who was better, it isn't even close. Russell was better because he played with his head and he had a bigger heart. He was a winner. And I think Russ was a better athlete, too."

"If you think I'm being too paradoxical, believe me when I say there wasn't a player in the league who wouldn't have preferred having Russell on his team instead of Chamberlain."

"Before key games, Russell would get a little uptight, and he'd vomit; he'd play the game in advance over and over in his mind. Not that Wilt wasn't up for games. He was, but not to the point Russell was. Wilt was a great athlete and a great basketball player, but Russell was better."

Chamberlain, quite naturally would disagree with those who'd say Russell was better than he. During and after his playing days, Chamberlain was never hesitant to discuss the Russell vs. Wilt issue.



They are friends off the court.

"The press started the Russell vs. Chamberlain thing that very first time we played each other. That was the beginning of my battles with Russell, battles I always seemed to lose-- at least that's how the sportswriters and most of the fans came to look at it," Chamberlain said a few years back.

"I guess sportswriters are human and have their favorites like everyone else. Their favorite, especially after I came into the league, was Russell. I think most fans and sportswriters subconsciously resented my ability to do so many things well, I could shoot, rebound, pass, run and block shots. That made me seem almost inhuman."

There was no way anybody could identify with me.

"On the other hand, Russell was a great rebounder and shot-blocker, but a horrible shooter. Early in his career, it was acknowledged he was a horrible shooter. But as his legend grew, people started saying he could probably score more, but chose instead to concentrate on defense. That was bull, and Bill knew it. That's why he worked so hard on defense and rebounding. He knew he couldn't score."

And what does Russell have to say about the whole thing? Incidentally it should be pointed out that Chamberlain and Russell didn't have an adversarial relationship with one another. They happened to be friends off the court.

"Wilt was supposed to put me into total eclipse when he came into the league," Russell said. "I think he had the opposite effect. He magnified my importance to the team."

"His physical power was awesome. He was a great one. I had a big challenge on my hands the moment I first stepped onto the court against him."

"Wilt was my greatest challenge and competition. He won his awards, I won mine. To me, the greatest awards were championships."

Russell wound up with 11 of them, Chamberlain but two. And since winning is the bottom line, we leave it up to you to use your own judgement as to who was better.

Ed Badger named to Hall of Fame

The National Junior College Athletic Association announced January 28 it had selected Ed Badger for its Hall of Fame. Badger will be inducted into the Hall March 17, 1986 in Hutchinson, Kansas, site of the 1986 NJCAA Basketball Championship.

Badger, who is Chief Scout for the Celtics, served as Vice President of the NJCAA from 1970 to 1977, was the NJCAA representative to the NCAA Rules Committee, and Chairman of the NJCAA Basketball Committee. Badger coached Wilber Wright Junior College in Chicago for 16 years, won 342 while losing 110, and built a reputation as one of the finest JC coaches of all time. This tenure led to his being named Coach of the United States team at the World University Games; this team defeated the USSR in Moscow to win the Gold Medal. Badger came away from those games persuaded David Thompson was one of the best Collegiate players of the modern era.

Coach Badger went on to coach the University of Cincinnati for four years before moving into the professional ranks. The Bulls, under Badger, took the Portland Trail Blazers to the wire in the playoffs in 1977.

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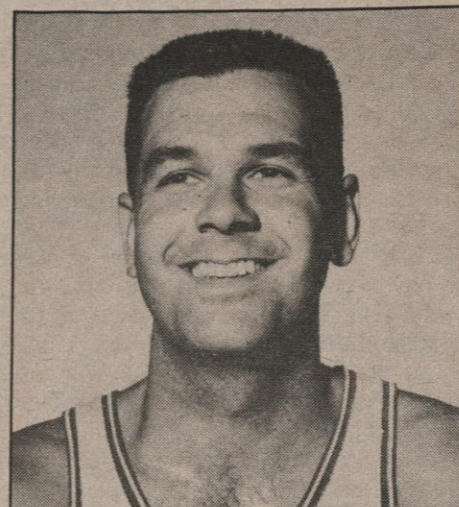
Innerview

Bailey Howell

Remember Bailey Howell? The sharp-shooting 6-7 forward spent only four of his 11 years in Boston, but those were four profitable campaigns. Howell picked up two championship rings in his stint with the Celtics, and his stay in Boston provided him with indelible memories.

Howell, though not as well-known as some others, has to go down as one of the NBA's all-time greats. An All-American out of Mississippi State who was the Detroit Pistons' first-round choice in 1959, Howell scored 17,770 career points and had a 18.7 scoring average in his 11 NBA seasons. He was named to the All-Star team six times.

Howell played with the Pistons from 1959-60 to 1963-64, then spent the next two seasons with the Baltimore Bullets. He joined the Celtics prior to the start of the 1966-67 season, in exchange for

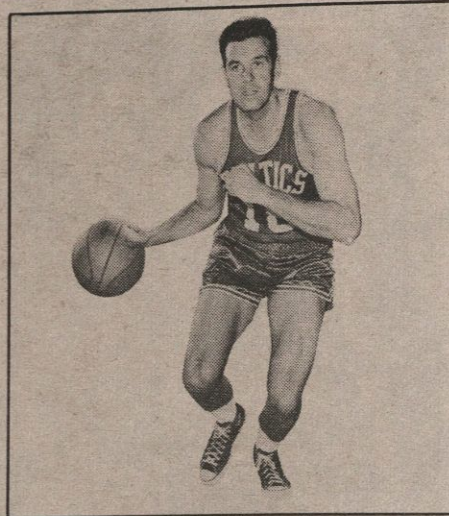


Bailey Howell's most rewarding years were with the Celtics.

Mel Counts. He ended his career with the Philadelphia 76ers four years later.

Today, Howell is living in Mississippi, working in private business. Celtics Pride had a chance to chat with Howell recently...

CELTICS PRIDE: What are you doing with yourself these days?

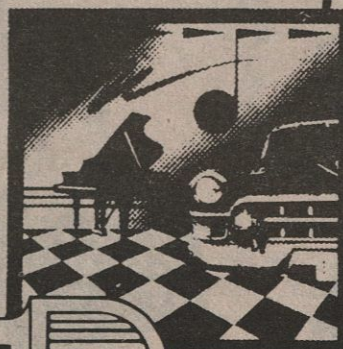


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HOWELL: I'm a representative for Converse, Inc., in sales and promotions. I cover most of Mississippi and North Louisiana. It's a sales job, but it goes a little further than that. I do a lot of promotional activity, attend events and do P.R. work for shoe lines, camps and clinics.

CELTICS PRIDE: So you probably travel quite a bit...

HOWELL: Yes, about three or four days a week. It's not quite as much travel as when I was playing, because I don't travel on weekends. It's a lot easier.

CELTICS PRIDE: Are you enjoying the job?

HOWELL: I've been doing it since 1972. If people are buying shoes, it's enjoyable. When they're not, it gets to be tedious from time to time. That's the way most jobs are. Nothing is going to be as fun or rewarding or as easy as pro basketball was.

CELTICS PRIDE: Speaking of rewarding, you were one of the former Celtics who took part in the Red Auerbach weekend last year...

HOWELL: It was a big thrill. It was a very fitting tribute to a person who was an enormous success. He's had more success than maybe anyone has in any sport. It was a great weekend—I got to see a lot of old friends. I spent eight years with other teams, but the four most rewarding and enjoyable were with the Celtics.

CELTICS PRIDE: What were your years with the Celtics like?

HOWELL: They were very challenging and a great deal of fun. I take a lot of pride in those years—two of them were championship years. I felt like I contributed to those championships. They were very rewarding and very brief, when you're enjoying yourself and winning, time flies. It was a great period of my life.

There is a tremendous amount of Celtics fans in my area. Because of

rivalries with other teams we were on TV twice as much as when I played with other teams. Because of that, most people remember me as a Celtics.

CELTICS PRIDE: How did you feel when you found out you were being traded from the Pistons to the Celtics?

HOWELL: When I was called and told I was traded to the Celtics, I wasn't disappointed. And it turned out to be everything I expected it to be. Looking back, it's nice not to have a lot of regrets. The only one was that I didn't finish with Boston. But you can't control who drafts you or who you play with. I was fortunate and blessed I was there late in my career.

CELTICS PRIDE: Is there a "Celtics Mystique"?

HOWELL: It's hard to explain, but there's definitely something there... but you can't say, "Look this is it." I felt the guys on the team depended on me to do my job. If I didn't, I was letting them down. It's a unique feeling compared to the other teams I played on. Of course you do your best and push yourself, but it was easier to motivate myself when I felt others were depending on me. It wasn't there with other teams.

CELTICS PRIDE: You ended up with a career field goal percentage of .480, almost unheard of from players who played in your era. Why was your shooting so accurate?

HOWELL: I would like to think I recognized when I had a good shot—I didn't take low-percentage shots. I spent a lot of time close to the basket. I spent a lot of time working on the offensive boards—that was my style. I didn't have a real deep shooting range. I stayed within my shooting distance.

CELTICS PRIDE: What was your biggest thrill as a Celtic?

HOWELL: The first world championship team I played on was the biggest thrill I ever had in athletics. Not a lot of people get that opportunity. I feel blessed that I had an opportunity to be part of that.

CELTICS PRIDE: By the way, how did it come about that you left the Celtics and spent your final NBA season with Philadelphia?

HOWELL: I had decided to retire and Red told me not to tell anyone, so we wouldn't really be losing a player in the expansion draft. I was picked up by Buffalo and they traded my rights to Philadelphia.

Looking back, had I known I was going to play another year, I feel I could've finished my career in Boston.

Celtics Diary "The Chief"—Wound up for Showdowns

Boston's 6-time All-Star Center, Robert Parish, matched talents, speed, and endurance with the best centers in the league, January 17 through January 26. After Boston had travelled to Indiana and Atlanta, the team returned home to face Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and the World Champion Lakers, Joe Barry Carroll and Parish's former team, the Golden State Warriors, and finally, on Super Bowl Sunday, Moses Malone and arch-rival Philadelphia.

"We feel very good about the way we played," Parish observed a few days afterward. The Celtics won all five contests in the midst of an eight-game winning streak; they extended their Eastern Conference lead over the 76ers to 5½ games and also wrested the NBA best-record mark from Los Angeles.

Parish averaged 18 points and 7.2 rebounds during this span and registered a season-high 5 blocks against Malone and the Sixers. With the addition of Bill Walton, he has played with increased intensity, enthusiasm, and precision. This is no insignificant feat.

The man who K.C. Jones has called "one of the best centers ever" has a career scoring average of 16.7 ppg and has gathered over 8,000 rebounds in his career. Parish possesses all of the modern game's tools: strong post-up game, aggressive defense, hustle in running the floor, and powerful upper body to muscle burly centers like Moses Malone.

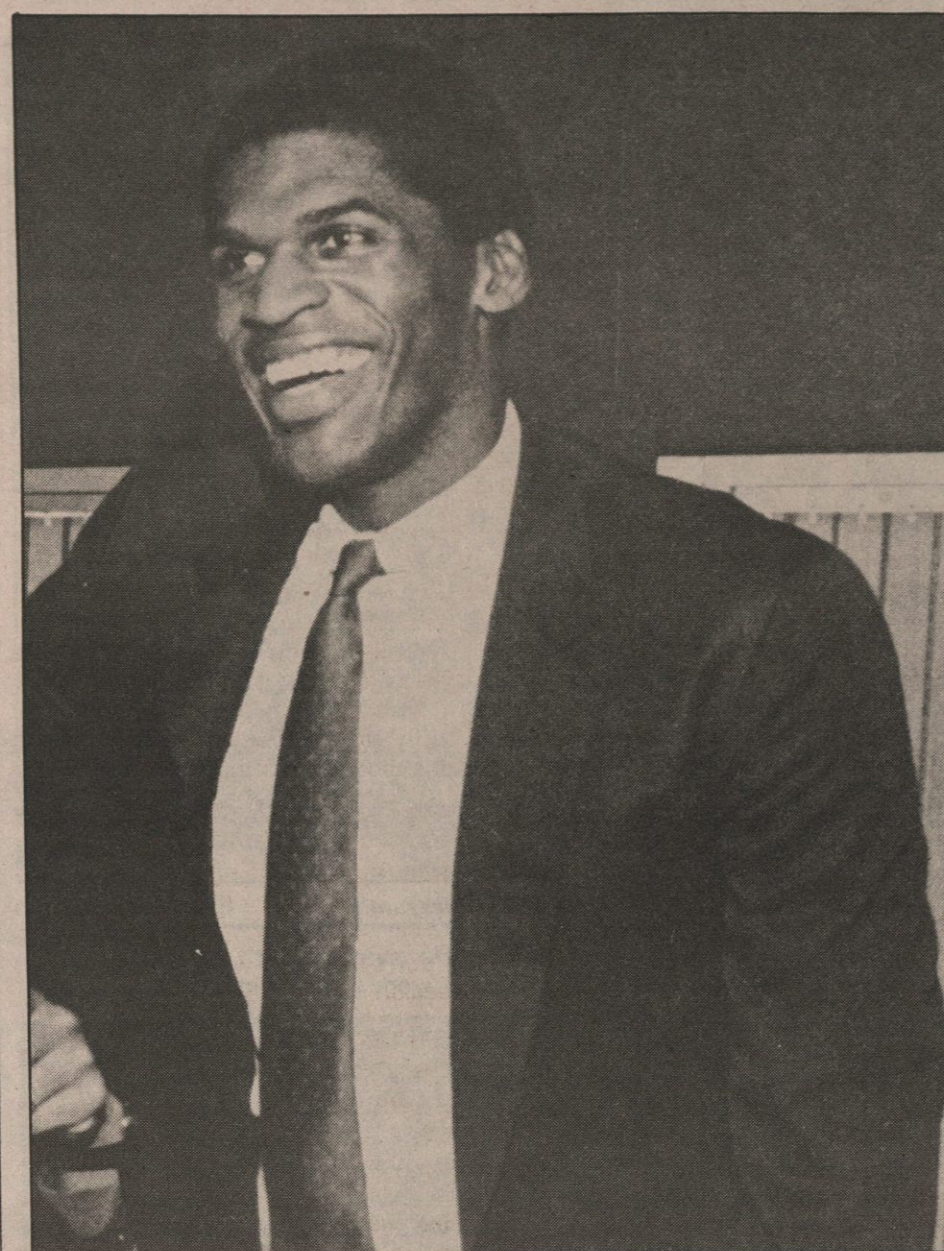
Through this important week of the Celtics season, Parish recorded his impressions as he matched up against Abdul-Jabbar, Carroll, and Malone.

January 17. Indianapolis. Although we are "expected" to take out the Pacers, we never take them lightly. A look at the record tells why: In November they defeated us, they have been very troublesome here in the past, and they have several young, talented players on their team.

We won this game with very tough defense and by establishing our intensity early in our offensive execution. The Pacers were missing Herbie Williams—that hurt them—but teams play stronger most times to compensate for missing stars. Every player is a challenge at this level.

January 18. Atlanta. I enjoy playing in Atlanta; the weather's warmer, the town's modern and developing. Despite the rain here today, the warmth is a fine break from the numbing cold back home. But the road begins to edge in on you about this time of the year. Unquestionably.

We had one of our most fulfilling



Robert is relieved that week is over.

wins of the year at the Omni tonight. For 3½ quarters, the Hawks played very well; they moved the ball well and especially shot at a high clip. They were on a high—and they started talking?

Our team didn't say much at the half (We were down 70-48). I didn't say anything but I was determined to just go out and play hard. You can never give up! They might go ice cold. You never know.

If they were high early, they became tentative and began looking at each other, trying to protect their lead. We brought our game together and won going away in the overtime, 125-122.

Bill Walton and I played much of the last half together because of McHale's injured achilles and his foul trouble. With time, Bill and I are learning each other's moves. We are both centers but being on the floor together is working; either of us can overplay on defense because we know there are two shot-blockers in the game. We can be like guards—

overplaying for steals, aware there is security behind either one of us.

January 21. Boston. Tomorrow night we play the Lakers; it's the first meeting between our team and Los Angeles of the season. K.C. gave us a day off earlier and I just kind of laid around. Later, I took my son Justin to see Iron Eagle with Lewis Gossett Jr. I go to as many movies as possible. I enjoy Jack Nicholson—funny, different in each role, and his ability to become each character he plays.

The theater is relaxing and so is my son. Justin laughed and had fun at the film (it's a comedy-drama). That's the thing about kids; they're happy, carefree, and unless they're sick, they never have a down day.

I utilize the days between games to positive advantage. I rest knowing the day of the game is the time I psych myself up. For games all of my energy is necessary.

January 23. Boston. We look forward to playing the Lakers. We're two of the best teams in the league so the

game is representative as a type of proving ground. Whether it is a big game or not, i.e., whether the game has importance for later I don't know. But you use any incentive you can during the season.

I don't look at the match up with Kareem as a personal duel, because it isn't. We are playing a team sport. What matters is which team wins. But he's very tough. I try to make him work and allow him nothing easy. You won't stop him but you must make him hurry if he is shooting or passing. By applying pressure.

Again we played a strong game. I worked hard early and played aggressively underneath. Bill did the same. And that's what's different this year. Neither Walton or I have to worry about being tired. We just can go out and play. If one of us is having an off-night, we'll pick the other one up. If both of us are off, Kite will do the job.

Neither Kareem, Bill or I did much talking after the game. It's a psych game; we all know each other's capabilities but you don't want to give your opponents too many accolades. You don't want to add anything to your opponent's competitive fires.

January 27. Boston. We have been fortunate; we have had a difficult January but we have risen to the occasion. The past weekend was a good example.

It is always nice to beat Golden State, my former team. Every chance possible. Actually, I have no thoughts whatsoever about the past, or any possible regrets they might have about trading me. Besides, they would never admit anything. I don't think they're that serious about winning. We had a fairly easy game against them. Usually they play us more aggressively but they must have been tired. Flat.

After "big games", it normally takes me 2-3 hours to wind down. Sunday against Philadelphia, we played one of those games. Playing against Philadelphia means going against Moses Malone. Moses is different from Kareem; Kareem is taller, has finesse. He can beat you many different ways. Moses is muscle—very determined, very aggressive. Not to mention the assistance he receives from the men in the striped shirts, the referees.

The Sixers game went to the wire and I was able to block some shots down the stretch. Philadelphia has gone through some changes but their strength against us is nothing new. We always struggle with Philadelphia.

I'm relieved the week is over. The most competitive games are the best ones to play, the most challenging. They require the most concentration, the investment of all your stamina.



BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Scott Wedman: Super Shooter!

By Tony Cooper

In the opening game of last year's NBA Championship series against the Lakers, Scott Wedman came off the bench and promptly took a shot. It went in.

He took a second one. That went in. He took a third -- same result. When Wedman was done, he had made all 11 of his field goal heaves--four of them from three point range, as the Celtics decimated the Lakers in game one, 148-114.

"Thank God we held him to 11 shots," Laker Coach Pat Riley said after the game.

Boston may have succumbed to Los Angeles in the series, but Wedman's performance served as a not-so-subtle reminder of what the veteran 6-7 forward can do.

Unfortunately for Wedman, he is kept under wraps most of the time. The Celtics are perhaps as deep in the frontcourt as any team in NBA history, and it's not easy for Wedman to get the kind of action he did when he played for Kansas City or Cleveland.

To the Celtics, Wedman is like the MX missile in your closet. You know it's dangerous, other people know its dangerous, you just wait for the right time to break it out.

When Kevin McHale was felled by an injury several games ago and had to sit out a few contests, Boston Coach K.C. Jones called on Wedman to start.

Wedman responded with 21 points against Atlanta, helping the Celtics expunge a 23-point deficit to beat the Hawks, then came back with 21 more in another Celtic win, over the Golden State Warriors.

"That's the name of the game--to produce," Wedman says. "That's what you're paid to do. Anytime you can come up with success, it's a good feeling."

While it's true Wedman is no longer a 40-minute-a-night man, Jones certainly feels good about having Wedman coming off the bench for the Celtics. After all, how many coaches can peer down the end of the bench and find an ex-All Star, ready, willing and able to do the job?

"Scotty did a good job the other night," Jones says, referring to the Atlanta game. "He gave us points and did good work on the boards, too."

Wedman's presence gives the Celts great flexibility. Jones can go with a banger frontline of Robert Parish, Kevin McHale and Bill Walton, or have a more finesse group, consisting of Wedman, Larry Bird or Walton. And Wedman, at 6-7, 225 pounds is big and strong enough to play with the bangers when necessary. But Wedman's game is outside shooting.



Scott and his wife Kim fit right in to the Celtics family.

"Scotty gives us four perimeter players," guard Danny Ainge says.

"He gives Robert Parish more room to work in the middle. Other teams

can't pack in the middle against us when Scotty's in the game.

"I'd take our four shooters (Wedman, Ainge, Bird, Dennis Johnson) over any four in the game."

Like anyone else, Wedman would prefer to be in the games more. He's averaging 6.2 points and 2.1 rebounds a game in his relief role, shooting about 46 percent from the field.

Just the same, he isn't about to storm into Jones' office and demand a starting position.

"I don't think starting is the answer," Wedman says. "I'd be in trouble if I said that. It's obvious I'm not going to get much chance to start. I'm keeping a perspective on things. I go out and do what I can do. I'm not going to let how much I go in affect what I do."

It is that kind of selflessness that makes Wedman valuable chattel. After more than seven years as a starter in this league, during which time he averaged as many as 19 points a game, Wedman finds himself in a new role. Whereas he was a protagonist with Kansas City and Cleveland he is a caddy for Bird, McHale and the others on the Celtics.

"It's not difficult," Wedman says. "It's quite a learning process to come off the bench. It's a different kind of game. You might come in and play five or six minutes."

Has it been difficult for Wedman to adjust to this new line of work?

"It's not any different for me than it is for anyone else on this team," Wedman says. "I just want us to win and for me to play as well as I can."

Wedman seems to be just now fitting into the scheme of the Celtics. He came to Boston from Cleveland midway through the 1982-83 season, for center Darren Tillis, and it wasn't quite clear what plans the Celtics had for Wedman. In 40 games with Boston that year, he played 502 minutes and averaged 5.2 points a game.

Wedman was part of the Celtics' championship bunch the following year, and shot just .444 from the floor on route to a 4.8 ppg average. He saw ample playing time a season ago -- 1,127 minutes, and knocked in 6.4 a night. Not bad for bench production.

"Part of fitting into a team is to be ready for any situation," Wedman says. "One of the reasons I've played well is I practice (hard) and stay in shape and stay ready. I've felt like part of the team ever since we won the championship."

Wedman glosses over his extra time in the gym, but it's worth mentioning. After practices, Wedman is

always willing to partake in a little full-court or three-on-three, or just get in some extra jump shooting. He's also prone to doing extra running and exercises when everyone else has gone home.

The 33-year-old Harper, Kan. native is the NBA's leading health nut. He takes his own bottled water on the road and eats only 100 percent natural foods. You'll never see Wedman at the local fast food joint or greasy spoon. Fat? Not on his body.

"That's one of the reasons I've been able to play as long as I have," says Wedman, in his 12th NBA season. "I take care of myself. I stay in good condition."

By the time they reach 33, most players have either retired or are considering it. Wedman, thanks to his superb conditioning, isn't quite ready for the roundball glue factory.

"I feel like I definitely have a couple of years left," Wedman says. "I'm taking it one year at a time. I like the situation in Boston, and I hope to stay here."

"I haven't written off going to other teams, because I've learned

basketball is a business. But this is a good situation.

"I remember when I found out I was traded to the Celtics, I was ecstatic. To be with a franchise this successful is very rewarding." That first championship was very gratifying. It made me realize how much sacrifice and hard work you have to do to get there."

And Wedman thinks the Celtics have a good chance at repeating their 1983-84 feat.

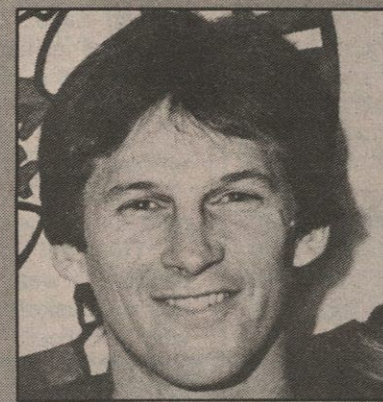
"Our confidence is going to build," Wedman says. "By the time the playoffs come, we're going to be on a roll."

Speaking of rolls, Wedman was on one during that championship opener against the Lakers last spring. What was that like?

"I knew it was going to be a tough game," Wedman says. "I got going when I was sitting on the bench and saw the starters taking it to the Lakers. That inspired me to keep it going."

The Celtics hope Wedman can continue to make significant contributions to the squad.

SELF PORTRAIT



Scott Wedman

BIRTHDATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: July 29, 1952 at Harper, Kansas

FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER: Gandhi (Ben Kingsley); I also enjoyed

Spartacus, and the entire cast of The Big Chill.

IF I COULD BUY ANY CAR, I'D BUY: 4-Door Honda Accord, which I

have purchased.

FAVORITE ALL-TIME TV SHOW: Cheers

FAVORITE ANIMAL IN THE ZOO: Ape

ENTREE I WOULD CHOOSE FOR MY LAST MEAL: I would skip dinner and have breakfast instead. I'd have oatmeal with bananas, raisins, two tablespoons of almond butter, skim milk. And a tall glass of apple juice.

FOUR GUESTS AT MY FANTASY DINNER PARTY: My wife Kim, my best friends, Cheryl and Steve Krischel, and Bill Bradley and/or Shirley MacLaine.

FAVORITE NBA CITY OUTSIDE BOSTON: Seattle, although I enjoyed Kansas City, my home city, when the NBA franchise was located there.

FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Seventh Street Inn on Newbury Street and Five Seasons in Brookline.

FAVORITE BOARD GAME: Scrabble

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PROFESSION I'D BE AN: Astronaut.

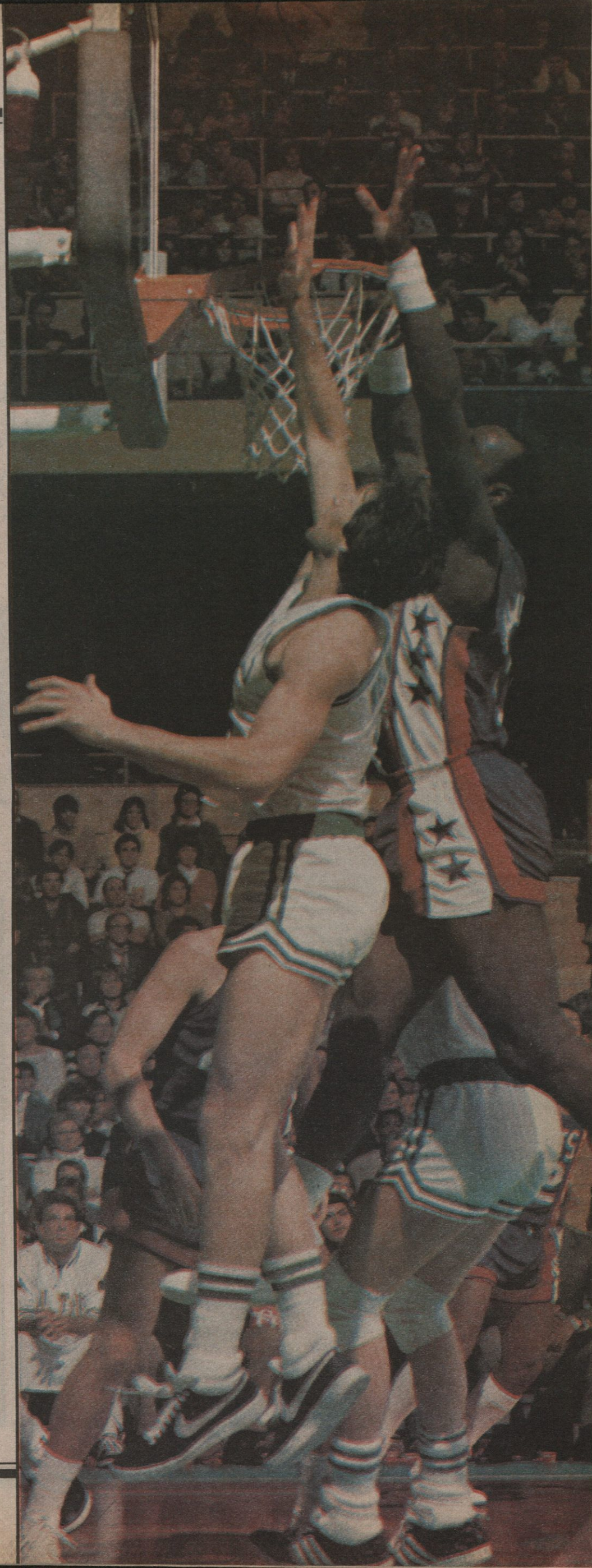
HIGH SCHOOL NICKNAME: Skeeter

FAVORITE DRINK: Distilled Water

OLDEST PIECE OF CLOTHING: A Mexican Party Shirt Kim bought me in college.

I'D SPEND MY LAST \$10 ON: Video Machines

I WISH I KNEW HOW TO: Build my own house.



Yes, There is Another Bird Coming

When you first see this kid, the first person who comes to mind is Larry Bird. He's from French Lick, Indiana and attends Springs Valley High School, just like Bird did. He's got the same curly blond hair, country-boy face and hawk nose. This kid is some three inches shorter than Larry Bird, but you still can't help but think of

number 33 when you see the youngster.

Meet Larry Bird's younger brother, Eddie.

"But I'm not Larry," Eddie says. "I just try to go out there and be myself. I go to Boston and see him at least once a year."

And when older brother talks to him, Eddie listens. The younger Bird

is a senior at Springs Valley, and will soon have to decide to which college he'll take his basketball wares. Since Larry went to Indiana State, in nearby Terre Haute, Eddie becoming a Sycamore is a definite possibility. Bird says he might want to attend Boston College, so he could be close to his Celtics brother.

"Evansville has been to a couple of my games already this year," Eddie Bird says. "The reason I'd go there is because Larry told me their coach (Jim Crews) is excellent. Larry said their coach would definitely tell me the truth about my game."

The truth is that no matter how hard Bird tries to establish his own identity, the comparisons to Larry are inevitable, even though Bird is arguably the finest player in the NBA, and Eddie is just a high school senior. Even Spring Valley Coach Gary Holland slips up from time to time, occasionally calling Eddie "Larry".

"Eddie feels everybody expects him to be like Larry, and that's not fair," Georgia Bird, mother of the Birds, said. "There's no comparison because Larry lives and breathes basketball."

Not that roundball isn't a focal part of Eddie's life, too. It's almost a sure thing Eddie will get a basketball scholarship somewhere. Mrs. Bird wants it to be at a school in Indiana or Illinois, so as not to have Eddie too far away from the family.

During the summer, Larry comes home, enabling the whole family to be together. But Eddie and Larry don't spend all of their time trading jump shots.

"We had to mow the lawn and things like that," Eddie says. "To tell you the truth, we didn't play that much last summer."

Bird's Springs Valley teammates don't resent him, simply because the younger Bird would rather have it be forgotten who his brother is. However, like his older brother, Eddie is talented.

"We have some really good players, but Bird is the star, no doubt about that," Holland says.

Holland knows a little bit about stars, having coached Larry when he was in high school as well. Sure, it's way too premature, but how about a little comparison between the two Birds?

"This boy's a good shooter," Holland says. "He's got all the tools to be a great shooter. 'He's a good rebounder without being able to jump high. He's a good passer and, like Larry, he wants his teammates to be noticed, too.'"

Holland has noticed a difference in the way the two Birds handle the game.

"Larry concentrated a little more on basketball than Eddie did," Holland says. "A lot of things that didn't bother Larry bother Eddie. But a lot of that is because Eddie finds it hard to be Larry's brother."

Springs Valley player Mike Woolsey agrees with that assertion.

"Having the name is great, but it puts him on the spot," Woolsey says.

True, but Eddie Bird seems to be handling it well. And when he needs tips on basketball, there's no doubt whom he'll call.

Cruise Along with the Celtics



Ever thought about a cruise in the Caribbean? Maybe go with a few friends, enjoy the sun and the clear blue water, the continuous food and entertainment on board, the relaxing days and the exciting nights?

Well, now's your chance to take that dream cruise. Not just on any boat, but on the SS Norway, the world's largest and most luxurious cruise ship. Not just with any friends, but with the players and staff of the Boston Celtics. And not just at the usual available price, but at a special price arranged through the accommodation of Four Seasons Travel, the official travel agency of the Boston Celtics.

This once-in-a-lifetime vacation departs from Miami on Saturday, June 21st, 1986 and returns on the following Saturday. Prices range from \$1,715 to \$1,260 per person, based on double occupancy; that payment includes air passage from Boston and back, all ground transportation and transfers, as many meals per day as one can eat, and all entertainment and activities on board the Norway. A sample of those activities is promising: those signing up for the cruise through Four Seasons will join the Celtics in private cocktail parties, photograph sessions and autograph sessions, as well as compete (with the players as teammates) in an on-board Olympics. They'll also get to eat meals with members of the Celtics and their wives.

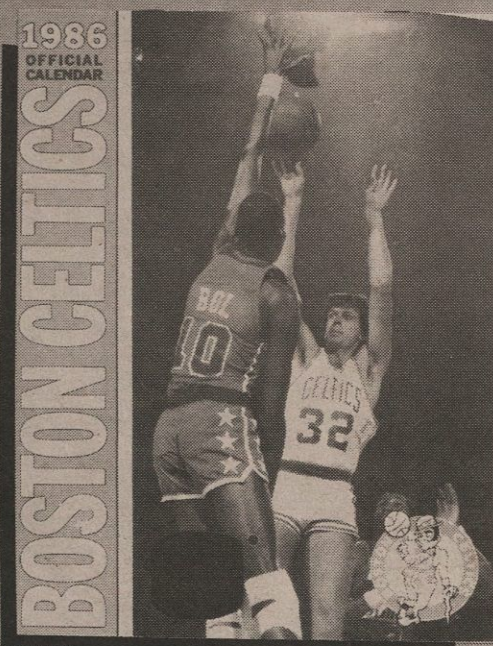
The SS Norway is generally regarded as the finest and most lavish cruise ship in the world. With a dozen bars, nightclubs and lounges, a boulevard one-third of a mile long, 65,000 square feet of open deck,

quality show business entertainment, three swimming pools and a casino on deck, those aboard will have plenty to occupy themselves with. And that's not even mentioning basketball (of course), volleyball, golf driving, trapshooting, shopping at duty-free stores and food of a quantity and variety to suit even the most discriminating palate.

All this, though, is available on the boat. The real excitement comes when the boat leaves Miami. Not only can you join the Celtics on this grandest of ships, but you can visit and tour four of the Caribbean's most beautiful and enchanting ports. From Miami, the Norway will cruise southeast overnight to Nassau, with its British tradition, casinos, shops and beaches. Next stop, after a day at sea, will be St. Thomas, where the duty-free shopping is the best in the Caribbean and Magens Bay boasts one of the world's 10 most celebrated beaches. St. Maarten is the next port of call; a fascinating mix of French and Dutch, this truly unique and unspoiled island features superb bays, magnificent beaches and clean waters. Finally, after another day at sea, this perfect cruise concludes perfectly—with a day on the Norwegian Cruise Line's own private Bahamian out island paradise, where you can join the Celtics in a private barbeque.

It may sound too good to be true, but it's not. You can cruise along with the Boston Celtics and have the vacation of your life. First, however, you have to reserve space for yourself and your family. To do so, call Four Seasons Travel at 273-5568. Bon Voyage!

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We were ready, we played basketball, and we turned the Corner.

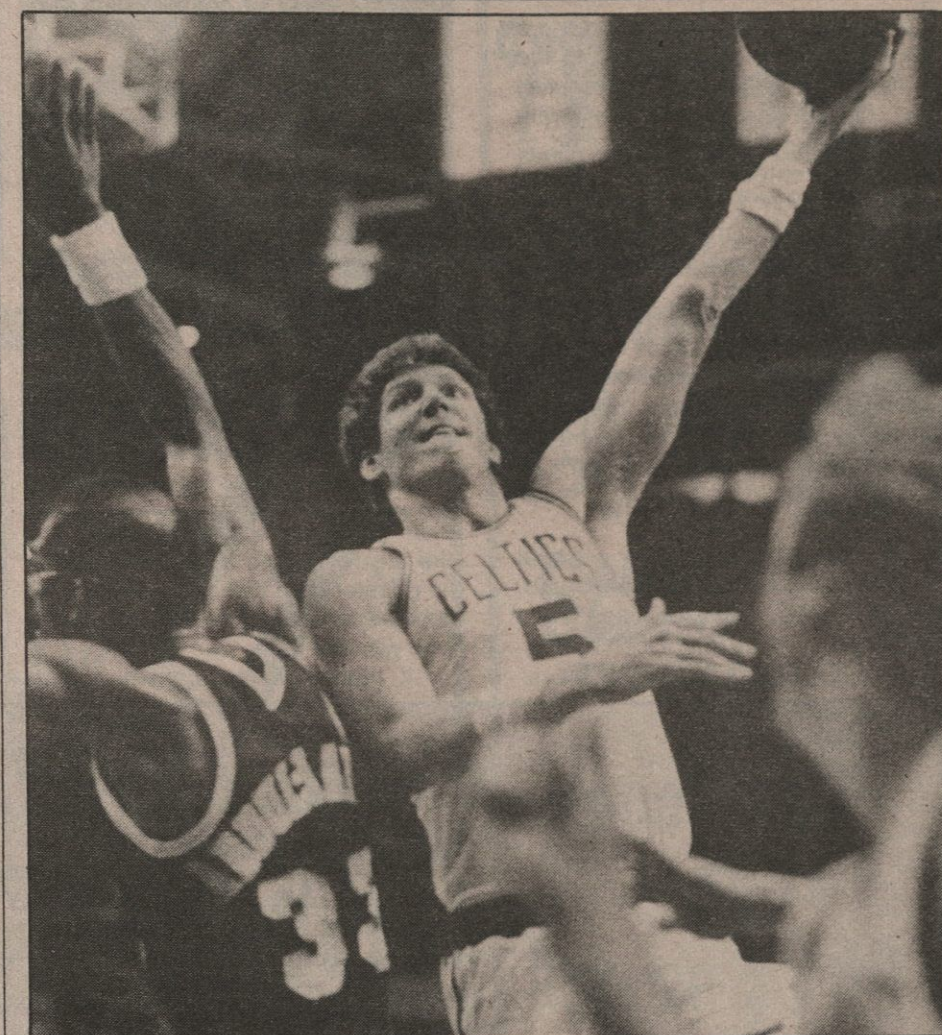
We're Playing Our Best!

Considering some of the positions we were in during the last two weeks of basketball. I feel very grateful to state we are playing our best ball of the year. We defeated L.A. on January 22nd to edge ahead of them with the best record of the league. But this is merely a statistic. Larry Bird is looking and playing the best he has all year, and the bench is consistently coming in with positive efforts: taking better care of the ball, executing on offense, running, and playing hard defense.

We fought our way through some dangerous situations: a 22-point half-time deficit in Atlanta, a let-down game against the Warriors, and a 13-point Philadelphia lead at the midway point of the 3rd period. Yet we won these contests. And we found help from expected people (Bill Walton) and unexpected men (David Thirdkill).

Atlanta: If there is heroism in sports, we had players who filled that bill in Atlanta. This game was ballyhooed in the papers down there; their players were jabbering about taking the game to Boston. They're young, and they let their enthusiasm become overconfidence. They challenged us verbally that night and they got our guys motivated. Even with the score 70-48 at halftime, in favor of Atlanta.

I did not say too much to the team at halftime. There were the technical pointers (Atlanta was playing well, pushing, penetrating); but our players are experienced, self-motivated people. What talking was done was by them, getting each other ready. My role was to coach the ballgame in the second half. We came back, and it was important to be watchful in substitutions. Because in rallying from that far behind, you'll spend extra effort. To win, the team has to have something left. Hustling, aggressive play will get you back into it. In order to take charge and win the ballgame, you need rested players. Scott



Bill Walton: A talent dedicated to the whole game.

Wedman played some very important minutes for us at guard; Dennis Johnson finished the job. That 125-122 overtime win was an important one.

Los Angeles. We varied our pace to prepare for the Lakers since there were three days between games. I gave the team Sunday off, and we built up toward the L.A. contest gradually. Anything you say before a Boston-Los Angeles game is anti-climatic and my pre-game message again focused on technical features--Abdul-Jabbar's post-up game, Magic Johnson's dedication to the running game, James Worthy, Cooper's defense.

We were ready, we played

basketball, and we turned a corner. The victory margin (110-95) was misleading; it appeared to be an easy game but what is missed is the hard work we turned out to produce that 15-point win.

A championship team cannot take a team like the Lakers easy. That's when they take you. Someone compared our 1st game win in the championship series last year (148-114) to last week's game. Last year's championship series 1st game win was accomplished with great shooting.

What I respected about our guys' game last week was their scrap for loose balls. Their banging. Their defense---and their shooting. We did

the necessary and team-oriented requirements which made the shooting easy.

I believe the Laker game culminated our return from the December slump, why it was a turning point. In December, we had played relaxed, done things half-way. We had entered an apparently easy section of our schedule and it's the nature of the beast: when you know you can beat a team, you tend to become careless. I think and I'm hopeful those periods ended with our win against the great Los Angeles team.

Philadelphia. It was late in the 3rd period, and for the second time that weekend, I thought we were beat. On Friday, the Warriors had us. We warned ourselves about letting down against the Warriors, who we faced between Los Angeles and the 76ers. But it was impossible and we started off slow. But they were not playing well, and we got our act together.

Philly is another story, of course. They are our arch-rivals and consistently attempt to take the game to us. The two teams played even through the first half but they rallied to pull ahead, 74-61.

At this point, Larry Bird, Bill Walton, David Thirdkill, and Robert Parish took charge. They led us, settling us in and playing hardnosed defense. Thirdkill scored twenty hustle points against Golden State; he carried it over to the Sixers by playing Julius Erving tight and scoring a 4th quarter-opening slam dunk. His quickness helps our bench.

Bill Walton gave us inside scoring which forced Philly out of sync defensively. That's when Larry fired in three important 3-point field goals. Those shots lifted us---and our crowd. Down the stretch Larry scored a twisting three-point play---and Walton sank two critical free throws.

Even though injuries have limited Bill Walton's time, nothing else is missing. This is a man from a winning tradition, who has a winning attitude, who is continuing to mature and grow as a player. He now puts into 20 minutes of play, what he used to put into 30 minutes. But this does not surprise me; I remember Bill at UCLA and at Portland: dynamic, graceful, effective, a student of the game. Walton plays with total commitment. We wondered when Bill was in school about what type of player he was (There are three types). Was he an average player? Was he a talented player who worked at only one part of his game? Or was he a talent who was dedicated to the whole game? His team championships indicate he is a complete player. Bill blocked seven shots against the Lakers, and he closed out our 105-103 win over the Philadelphia 76ers. He's turning in his maximum performance in the toughest games. He gives us an important edge.



BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE



M. L. Carr

On Scott Wedman...

Scotty can give you that offensive punch in a hurry. He's been shooting and playing very well. He's giving the team a big boost. He gives the Celtics a lot of forward depth. K.C. can use a lot of different combinations. The Celtics can be, not just overpowering, but can use quickness, too.

K.C. can go with Larry, Kevin, Parish or Walton. And when the opposing defenses sag in, K.C. can go with the outside game. Larry and Scotty are two good outside shooters --plus Dennis Johnson and Danny Ainge. K.C. has a lot of combinations to work with.

Scott has been playing well - No question about it, it's all has to do with playing time. Scotty is a bona fide player, but no matter how great a player is, if he's playing two minutes a night, or two minutes one night and doesn't know if he's going to play two or 32 the next night, it's going to wreck his rhythm. It goes without saying. It's just like a guy who goes golfing once a week and a guy who plays everyday. The guy who goes everyday is going to play better.

When I played against Scott, his teammates used to look for him in the transition game. They knew he was a good shooter--his jump shot was almost as good as a playup.

In the first game of the championship series against the Lakers last year, Scotty was 11-11 from the floor. You look at that and you know he's capable of doing it at any time. He's just one example of the amazing amount of talent we have on this team.

If he were getting a lot of time, Scotty would have a lot of nights like that. He's an All-Star player.

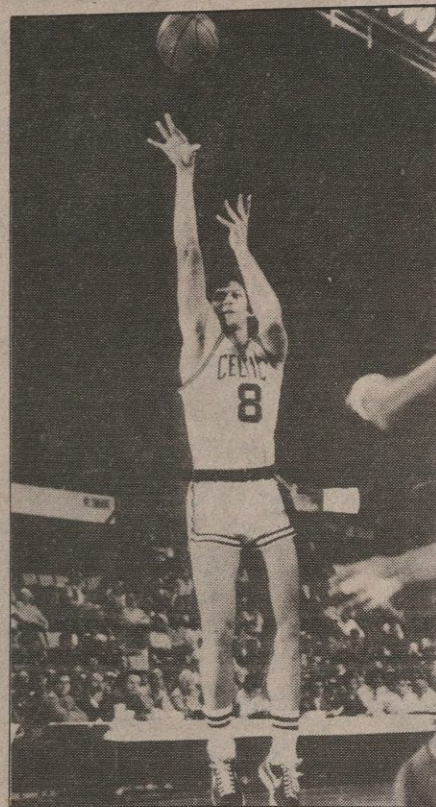
When Scott first came to the Celtics from Cleveland, he didn't play very much. But he was very professional about it, even though he wanted to play and everyone knew

he wanted to play. He accepted the role he had on the team. He was the big fish in the little pond--that applies here. Scotty was more content with winning, even though he wanted to play. He accepted his role.

Scotty spent a lot of extra time in the gym, shooting the ball or running. He was always ready and responded when he was called on.

Scotty also takes good care of himself and stays on top of his game. He really takes care of his body, and could play another couple of years if he wants to. Now, I'm trying to negotiate his contract, he'll have to do that himself!

Someone told that, after we beat Philadelphia a couple of weeks ago, Charles Barkley said Cleveland had a better team, 1-through-12. Fortunately for Barkley, he's a better player



Wedman: Offensive Punch in a hurry!

than player-personnel director. It's like a guy running track and thinking he's faster than the other guy but he finished second. The bottom line is who won the race.

It motivates players when they

look at stuff like that. Every time you play them, you want to take it to 'em. We responded to the challenge.

I didn't think of the recent Laker game as a classic Boston-L.A. matchup. This won't be normal--the Lakers are a much better team than they showed.

But you have to give credit to the Celtics, especially the bench. Walton, Sichting and all the guys did what they had to do.

Boston matches up so well with the Lakers now, when Kareem goes to the bench, the Lakers lose something. But we don't lose much when Parish or McHale comes out of the game and we go to our bench.

Speaking of that, the reserves are getting playing time. Walton is getting more time than he thought he would and Sichting has found his niche and groove. All the guys off the bench, the guards and big guys, have to do it.

As far as the rest of the league goes, things are settling in just as you expected them to. The race between Boston and Philly in the Atlantic Division isn't a tight race, but it is a race. The Lakers are on top and Milwaukee is up there--there have been no big surprises.

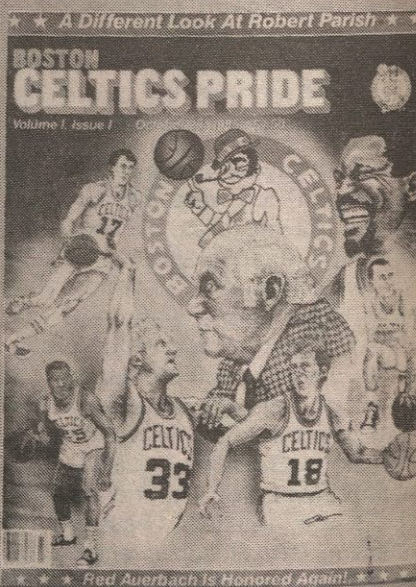
One team that has really been coming on lately is Atlanta. They're getting strong play from their top guys, like Dominique Wilkins and Randy Wittman. The play of their guards has been nice, although they do have some off-shooting nights. They put a lot of pressure on you defensively, and they've been running the ball up the court.

A lot of guys are involved in the offense. Those are fun times.

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Celtics Top LA in 1st Meeting

In the beginning there were the expected big-game heroes shining the light. Dennis Johnson, Larry Bird, and Robert Parish stormed out of the gates to ignite the Celtics to a 110-95 victory over the NBA champion, Los Angeles Lakers, in the teams' first meeting of the season. The Celtics and Lakers divided four games during the Pre-Season; the January 22nd encounter was the first game between the two teams which have battled in the championship finals the past two years.

Key players have joined each side since the Lakers wrested the crown from Boston in the Garden last June. LA acquired power forward Maurice Lucas to fortify the Kareem Abdul-Jabbar frontline, along with rookie A.C. Green. But in the end, it was Celtics newcomer Bill Walton who meant the difference. Walton fired up the Celtics on the defensive end and sparked a 4th quarter surge which held the Lakers scoreless from the field for the opening seven minutes of the stanza. The 26-14 rally pushed the Celtics lead to 100-79 and the C's coasted.

The teams are personal and historical rivals. Historically, there have been roughly three phases of a series which the Celtics lead 134-81 dating back to 1948-49 when the Lakers were in Minneapolis.

The first phase ended in 1958-59 as the Celtics, under Red Auerbach's coaching and Bob Cousy's fast-breaking, swept Elgin Baylor and Minneapolis four straight. Phase 2 concluded in 1968-69; Bill Russell went out a winner as the C's defeated the Lakers, now in Los Angeles, for the sixth time in championship finals play. Lakers key figures: Jerry West and Wilt Chamberlain.

The present and third era of the rivalry exists now. Boston with Bird, Johnson, and Cedric Maxwell won in 1983-84. The Lakers inscribed a novel twist to the history by defeating the Celtics in 1984-85, behind Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, and James Worthy. The current edition of the rivalry, begun actually with the advent to the teams of Bird and Johnson in 1979-80, symbolizes the qualities which have made professional basketball popular. The teams have talent, teamwork, professionalism, and tremendous pride in their abilities.

The Lakers came into the Garden in January realistically fatigued and injured. They played without their un-sung figure, power forward Kurt Rambis who was back in LA with a sprained left ankle. Magic Johnson played with a swollen and sore right knee (which forced him to miss the team's next two games--both losses). Yet, injuries plagued Boston;



Walton fired up the Celtics.

Kevin McHale, the team's All-Star power forward, limped badly on an injured Achilles Tendon. He would miss the team's next four games.

As the teams played this night, it was evident that despite slowly creeping age and injury, both Boston and Los Angeles appeared as superb as before. If the Lakers were not the modern day version of the Harlem Globetrotters because of illness, they are never the less stronger and more confident in their power game and measured fast-break. And if the Celtics were older, they were deeper; consequently Parish was running the floor and aggressive defensively, Johnson was the stand-out in the big game, Larry Bird was

"It's one game; psychologically, it does do something for them (Boston). But it's only for one night.".....Pat Riley

in the middle of each Celtics burst doing everything, and Walton was the team equivalent to the departed Maxwell: an authentic clutch player.

The C's, as noted, spurred early, seemingly scripted a highlight film in the first quarter. There was Danny Ainge reading a Laker play perfectly, stepping into the passing lane for the steal, and hanging in the air for a thrilling transition basket. Parish dominated the inside. Johnson hit outside jumpers and on another sequence, missed a drive but instantly tapped in his missed shot, rocketing goalward for the score (He repeated his play in the second quarter).

The Celtics led early 15-7 and

closed the quarter with a 12-4 run. Bird immediately established himself; offensive rebounding, outside jumpers from both wings, powerful positioning on the defensive board, court awareness which would finally result in 12 rebounds, 7 assists, 3 steals. At 4:43 of the 1st quarter, Coach Jones, seeing that the Lakers had decided to play Abdul-Jabbar on McHale and Lucas on Parish, sent redhead Walton into the game.

Finale to the first quarter highlight scheme: Walton rejected an Abdul-Jabbar off-balance fade, and two other LA attempts. Walton would play 16 minutes and the Celtics would outscore the Lakers 38-22 while Walton was on the court.

Boston's well-coordinated play failed to produce a rout of the defending champions, however. In the first half, Byron Scott and Johnson combined for 22 points, Lucas fought for nine rebounds, and the Lakers remained within range, 57-49. The Lakers, according to Scott, have made a determined attempt to play well early this season. At one point, the LA record was 30-6; this extended superior play kept the Lakers in it. Even on an off-night against a great team in its own right.

The third quarter's opening stages evoked memories for the most loyal C's fans. When the Celtics won the 1983-84 championship, the 7th game of both the New York and Los

Angeles series were begun with explosive scoring surges by Dennis Johnson. DJ immediately pushed this night's lead into double figures, and Bird's, Jerry Sichting's, Parish's, and McHale's play sustained the advantage. Both team's benches scored 26; LA's relief players grabbed 20 rebounds to Boston's 18, but Walton's 7 blocks equalized that advantage.

The Celtics blockaded a final Laker rush in the third quarter, with fortifying and inspiring play from Walton. He entered the game midway in the 3rd period and immediately dunked. He played strong on the offensive board, blocked the aforementioned seven shots, and started the 4th quarter positively for Boston, scoring on a running jump hook.

The final important scenario in the mid-season game was the impenetrable Parish-Walton frontline combination. "Every time I got around one, the other was there waiting," moaned Abdul-Jabbar later.

A two-minute defensive rally sealed the verdict: two blocks by Walton, one by Parish, another Bird steal, and a driving dunk attempt by Number Five which drew a foul. And an appreciative Garden standing ovation.

"They are much different than they were at the end of the last season," said Pat Riley after. "They took it to us--then away from us--early."

"Walton gives them four excellent big men; the way to counteract that is to string the floor out on transition, to fast break. But you have to box out and rebound. We didn't do that tonight."

Abdul-Jabbar's poor shooting (6-20) was symptomatic of the Lakers' shooting miseries: .386. Later, he sat composed in the LA dressing room.

"It's one game; psychologically, it does do something for them. But it's only for one night."

Walton's emergence carries some significance. The Celtics have an enthusiastic bench to compete with the Lakers. This allowed a rested Bird, Johnson, and Parish to play with the tenacity reminiscent of the 1983-84 championship year. Riley compared the Walton-Parish duo to Sampson-Olajuwon, but now, the veterans may be better than that. The Lakers coach was impressed with the offensive lift Sichting added, as well. A final Celtics plus is that Walton's defense increasingly displayed an ability to generate offense on the break, vital in precluding shooting slumps.

Riley pointed out the value of the missing Rambis, a player who made important hustle plays in the championship series last year. A fitting symbol: hustling Lakers and Celtics pursuing the cherished NBA crown.



Bill is having the time of his life.

Walton is Paying Big Dividends in Big Games

It's hard to believe, but just a year ago, Bill Walton was at the precipice of his NBA career. He was with the lowly Los Angeles Clippers, and there was no telling when one of his oft-injured legs would go awry again.

However, Walton has been resurrected with the Celtics.

"I'm not used to freezing to death in sub-zero temperatures," said Walton, a Southern California native. "But I wouldn't trade Boston for 10 years worth of California sunshine."

The Celtics acquired him from the Clippers in a trade over the summer--a highly-intricate deal for veteran forward Cedric Maxwell. The deal was definitely a gamble for both sides--especially Boston.

And it's a swap the Celtics would make 100 times over again. Walton has proven to be a valuable reserve, standing in for Robert Parish at center and Kevin McHale at forward.

Walton played his best game of the year in the much-awaited showdown between the Celtics and World Champion Lakers on January 22 at the Garden. In just 16 minutes, the 6-11 redhead had 11 points, 8 rebounds and seven blocked shots.

"Bill loves the competition, that's when he's having fun," Celtics Coach K.C. Jones says. "If you're playing L.A. or Philly, that's Bill's game."

Says Walton: These are the games I get fired up for. These games are special. And I get fired up every time I see Bill Russell (broadcasting the game for WTBS).

Parish was duly impressed with Walton's effort against the Lakers.

"Great players get up for big games and that's exactly what Bill did," Parish says. "He was talking about it since the start of practice, two days before the game."

"He's really enthusiastic, and that's really something for a man who's been around as long as he has. It goes to show you he still enjoys the game."

Walton not only is enjoying good health, but also peace of mind now that he's not being looked upon to be a savior for the franchise. Remember, the Celtics won a few championships before he got here.

"I'm having the time of my life," Walton says. "I feel good, and playing about 20 minutes a game is good for my timing. And I'm not worrying about my foot or other old injuries. I'm able to concentrate on basketball."

Was there anything special about facing the Lakers?

"I wasn't out there trying to send a message to the Lakers," Walton says. "I just wanted to win. And I get worked up for these types of games. Of course I love playing these guys. I'm from Southern California, so it makes it even more fun to show the people back home I can still play."

Says the Lakers James Worthy: "I think there's a lot he wants to prove. He knows that one of the reasons the Celtics wanted him was to go against us. And with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar out there, it didn't take much to get Bill up for this game."

Don't get the impression that this standout performance was a one-shot deal for Walton. He helped the Celtics eliminate a 23-point deficit and beat the Atlanta Hawks recently and scored 19 points in a Boston win over the Philadelphia 76ers.

"When you're playing with great players, it gives you a lot of confidence," Walton says. "You know if you do your job, they'll do theirs. You can always feed off great players in this game."

And Walton is certainly a great one himself.

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Celtics Confidential

By Bob Schron

The Long Season. Big Games, injuries, practice regimens, the road, and show business remind fans of the length and complexity of the NBA's long year. On January 22nd, the Celtics played a strong two-way game to defeat the Lakers, 110-95. On hand were **WTBS**, a Music Video film crew to feature **Larry Bird** and **Magic Johnson**, **NBA Films**, **Sports Illustrated**, and **The New York Post** and **The New York Times**.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar characteristically reserves praise for his opponents, wary of giving away the slightest edge. But he paid due respect to the increasingly effective **Robert Parish-Bill Walton** frontline. "When I got around Parish, there was Walton to help out. There wasn't much room."

The Lakers appeared weary, and injured (with **Kurt Rambis** missing). They were playing their 5th game in 7 days on two coasts. But even if the NBA champs were fatigued, **Bill Walton** savored the win. Late, after the reporters had left the locker room, he turned to Parish, slapped palms, and said happily, "33-8, Robert! 33-8!" "Walton looks like he's an even more intense player with a team like the Celtics, of championship caliber," observed **Abdul-Jabbar**. Asked if the LA schedule was taking its toll on them, **Kareem** replied, "I could say so, but I'm not looking for excuses."

Matt Goukas, Sixers Coach, brought a team which had won 17 of 20 in to the Garden but the Celtics rallied from defeat to win. "We failed to execute in the end," said **Goukas**. But credit the Celtics. And **Larry Bird**. He got them going, created offense where there was none."

K.C. Jones mixed his starters and reserves in practice more than ever in his three years as Celtics Coach. **Jerry Sichting** and **Sam Vincent** played with the starters, **Dennis Johnson** with the Green Team. The bench became vital after **Kevin McHale** hurt an Achilles Tendon and missed four games, including the Warriors', Sixers', Bulls', and Bullets' games, through January 31st.

Team Physician **Dr. Thomas Silva** stated, "Because of our schedule--- three days of rest after the Sixers game---we felt we could gain eight days off for **McHale**. He's a big, heavy (6-11, 225) player; anytime we can keep him off the injury is a bonus."

Silva amended this by saying "Our traditional attitude is we want every player ready to play every game. Usually, if the player thinks he can go, I'll lean toward okaying his going out there...During the Warrior



K.C. mixed his starters and reserves effectively.

game, **Walton** suffered another injury to his nose---hit by teammate **Bird**. **Silva** accompanied the Redhead to the locker room and was astounded at the center's intensity. **Walton** had been in the game for all of one minute and fourteen seconds.

"He was so sky high; immediately he had generated game-level intensity."

Silva took the player's blood pressure...**Jones** had described the Warriors as "potentially dangerous", the contest being between the Lakers and Sixer duels. But the Celtics pulled away. In time to face the Sixers, flying into Boston after a game in Cleveland.

"I've seen them with stronger team," stated Sixers Guard **Julius Erving**. "With **Cedric Maxwell** starting, and **Quinn Buckner** coming in for defense, and **Kevin** playing off the bench. **Bill (Walton)** played well today (after the 105-103 Celtics win), but one game doesn't make a season. They might make a liar out of me, but that's my opinion." **Erving** has accepted the move to guard, but hasn't embraced it. "It's worked out well for the team, and that's my first priority and commitment. It's a challenge; I've had to concede my low post game, and I don't like being on the periphery of the offense. But I'm trying to make the best of my opportunities."

The Sixers played in Boston and then headed west for four games...The Celtics' road test comes in February: 7 games in the west, in 9 days. They built up a lead over the Lakers in the entire NBA, and the Sixers in the East. With the

road and in a long season, the games are needed...

Eddie Bird, **Larry Bird's** younger brother, was reported to have interest in Boston College, according to **The Boston Globe** and **CBS Sports**...**McHale** appeared at **Mickey Finn's Sporting Goods** for **Converse**, January 28th...**Walton**, **McHale**, and **Parish** participated in a promotion for **Harvey's Electronics**; the winner of the store-sponsored contest sat with **Johnny Most** and **Glenn Ordway** during the February 5th game against the Bullets and then went to dinner with the Celtics frontcourt at the **Scotch and Sirloin** restaurant in Boston...The Celtics advertised a salute to the American Conference Football Champion **New England Patriots** in the Boston dailies...

CBS televised the Celtics-Sixer game on Super Sunday and the national television audience was treated to a televised shot of the Celtics huddle during a timeout at 1:00 at the Celtics leading, 101-99. The Celtics have usually asked the cameras to stay away in past seasons...Warrior's Coach **John Bach** shrugged his shoulders when asked about the multi-skilled Celts. "They're size is imposing so you have to double-team them. But they move the ball so well, they're able to convert your strategy into two easy points." According to **Jimmy Rodgers**, the Sixers' move of **Erving** to guard and **Bobby Jones** to forward, "gives them a veteran team on the floor at the beginning of games. It cuts down their turnovers at the start and gives them an early advantage to set the tempo of games..."

The Lakers had two broadcasting teams with them on their trip east, including a Spanish broadcasting team...**Eric "Sleepy" Floyd**, who was the point guard on the Georgetown team which lost to Michael Jordan and North Carolina in 1982, commented on former teammate **Patrick Ewing**. "The league has had to adjust to him, not vice-versa, the sure sign of an impact player." Asked if he would ideally replace Warrior center **Joe Barry Carroll** with **Ewing**, **Floyd** replied that he did not want to comment...

Rookie Talk. Late January brought two of the more celebrated rookies into the Garden, **A.C. Green** of the Lakers and **Chris Mullin** of the Warriors. Like the C's **Sam Vincent**, "Adjustments have been constant," offered **Mullin**. "But even though we lost, I still enjoy playing against the Celtics. They play the game the way it's supposed to be played." The main adjustments according to **Mullin**: "Consistency and adjusting to travel." For **Green**, coping with "travel and back to back games have been tiring, but the excitement of the pro game has kept me going. On the floor, I can't go right up for my shot in the post like I could in college. Here, you always have to go up strong. In college, you could simply shoot."

Chris Ford, C's perceptive Assistant Coach, keeps score. Every time a Celtics misses a free throw in a game, the misfiring Celt must pay a \$5 fine...**Jeff Twiss**, Celtics Public Relations Director, and **John Creed**, Administrative Assistant, will visit patients in the Boston Veteran's Administration Hospital during the C's west coast trip in February...**Ted Sarandis**, local radio personality, reports that former Northeastern player, **Perry Moss** of the 76ers won that team's flexibility contest recently...

MVP Push. Bird, averaging 28.7 points, 10 rebounds, and 7.7 assists, was named the All State/NBA Player of the Week for the period ending Sunday, January 19...The Celts played before their 242nd consecutive sellout January 26th against Philadelphia and concluded their 44th straight winning month of basketball since Bird turned professional...Dating back to the days of the Philadelphia Warriors, the Celtics had a 95-66 record vs. Philadelphia Warriors, against the San Francisco Warriors, 48-22, and against the Golden State Warriors, 26-20...Bird's intensity is greater against conference rivals than even against Los Angeles. "We don't get that psyched against the Lakers because we only play them twice during the regular season," states the two-time going on three MVP.

January 22, at Boston Celtics 110, L.A. Lakers 95

The Celtics had been waiting for months to get back at the Lakers, who bumped them from the championship series last year. They finally got their chance at the Garden on this night, and made the most of it.

Bill Walton played just 16 minutes, but made the most of his time. The redhead had 11 points, eight rebounds and seven blocked shots during the span. **Dennis Johnson** led the Celtics with 22 points and **Larry Bird** had 21, but Boston wouldn't have won without **Walton**.

"Walton was the key to the game," Laker Coach **Pat Riley** said. "They hammered us. They were bigger, faster, better, stronger. We brought to the game what we had, whatever that was. Sometimes you bring 100 percent. Sometimes you bring what's left, and that's enough. Against the Celtics, that's not enough."

Magic Johnson wasn't 100 percent, as he had a sore knee. **Johnson** said had this game not been against the Celtics, he would've sat it out.

Walton spent 32 minutes sitting. However, when he was on the floor, he was a marvel.

Celtics 110, Lakers 95

L.A. LAKERS (95)
Lucas 4-11 1-3 9, Worthy 5-15 2-3 12, Abdul-Jabbar 6-20 5-6 17, Scott 7-13 1-1 16, E. Johnson 6-10 3-3 15, Cooper 2-5 0-0 4, Kupchak 2-9 2-3 6, Green 2-6 0-0 4, McGee 2-5 2-2 6, Spriggs 2-4 0-1 4, Lester 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 39-101 16-22 95.

BOSTON (110)
McHale 3-14 6-8 12, Bird 8-16 4-4 21, Parish 7-13 2-2 16, D. Johnson 9-19 4-4 22, Ainge 5-9 0-0 11, Walton 5-6 1-2 11, Sichting 3-4 1-1 7, Wedman 2-4 0-0 4, Carlisle 1-3 0-0 2, Vincent 2-3 0-0 4, Kite 0-2 0-0 0, Thirskill 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 45-98 18-22 110.

L.A. Lakers 25 24 26 20—95
Boston 31 26 31 22—110
Three-point goals—Scott, Bird, Ainge. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 55 (Green, Lucas 10), Boston 70 (Bird 12). Assists—L.A. Lakers 17 (E. Johnson 6), Boston 27 (Ainge 6). Total fouls—L.A. Lakers 23, Boston 21. Technical—Cooper. A—14,890.

Celtics 135, Warriors 114

GOLDEN STATE (114)
Smith 4-9 3-4 11, Short 5-18 5-6 15, Carroll 2-14 2-2 6, Feagles 2-6 3-4 7, Floyd 8-11 3-3 19, Mullin 10-17 3-4 24, Ballard 4-8 4-5 12, Huston 2-3 4-5 8, Whitehead 3-5 2-2 8, Thibault 2-2 0-0 4, Vernoeven 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 42-95 23-35 114.

BOSTON (135)
Wedman 9-22 2-2 21, Bird 10-16 4-4 25, Parish 5-9 3-4 13, Johnson 6-14 0-0 12, Ainge 7-10 2-2 16, Walton 2-2 0-0 4, Sichting 5-5 2-2 12, Kite 3-5 0-1 6, Vincent 0-4 2-2 2, Thirskill 8-13 4-5 20, Carlisle 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 57-104 19-22 135.

Golden State 27 26 35 114
Boston 37 26 30 42—135
Three-point goals—Mullin, Wedman, Bird. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Golden State 55 (Smith 12), Boston 54 (Wedman 13). Assists—Golden State 19 (Huston 7), Boston 38 (Johnson 7). Total fouls—Golden State 22, Boston 26. A—14,890.

GAME BY GAME - REVIEW

"I couldn't believe how fired up he was," Celtics reserve **David Thirskill** said. "He's always pumped, but this time, it was different."

"Bill inspired the troops," **Riley** said. "He made the difference. He has a way of playing well in big games."

What did **Walton** have to say about all this? "I should be able to sleep well, except that I probably won't be able to sleep at all."

January 24, at Boston Celtics 135, Golden State 114

One would think that after such a resounding victory over the world champion Lakers, the Celtics would've come out flat against the lowly Warriors.

Forget it. "We have mostly veterans on this team, and we know about these types of pitfalls," **Bill Walton** said. "So we knew exactly what to do to overcome them."

Even though the Celts were minus **Kevin McHale**, they had little trouble with the Warriors, coached by ex-Celtics player **John Bach**. In a rare start, **Scott Wedman** had 21 points, 13 rebounds and 4 assists. **Larry Bird** led the Boston offense with 25 points, and found the time to grab 9 rebounds and hand out four assists. **David Thirskill** came off the bench to pop in 20 points. The win was Boston's seventh straight and 11th in its last 12 tries.

The Celtics trailed three times in the first 90 seconds of the game, then took control for good.

"They were flat, not very aggressive," **Robert Parish** said. Maybe from too much playing, or whatever."

Chris Mullin led the Warriors with 24 points, in just 27 minutes.

January 26, at Boston Celtics 105, Philadelphia 103

The Sixers didn't come to the

Garden to cause no trouble, they were there to do the pre-Super Bowl shuffle. But in the end, the Celtics were the ones on the dance floor.

Philadelphia was yapping instead. "I'll stick to my original statement," Sixer forward **Charles Barkley** said. "I don't think they can beat us. And if you are intelligent, you saw the same thing today. But they cannot beat us."

Ahh, what about the final score??

"We should have won all four of them (Boston had beaten the 76ers three out of four this year) and they know that. We just gave it away down the stretch."

Barkley wasn't done yet.

"Boston has a better team, but I think Cleveland has more talent 1-through-12. That's the truth. Anyone who knows anything about basketball knows that Cleveland has better talent 1-through-12. Boston has better players 1-through-8, and they have **Larry Bird**, who's the best in the league. And it was up to him to pull them through today."

Indeed, **Bird** scored 13 points in the third quarter—including three three-pointers—to bring the Celtics back from a 13-point deficit. **Bird** finished with 28 points and 14 rebounds. **Bill Walton** scored 10.

January 30, at Chicago Celtics 101, Chicago 91

The Celtics notched their ninth straight win and 13th in their last 14 games, giving them a 34-8 record, the best in the NBA.

Larry Bird led the offensive charge with a game-high 26 points. Center **Robert Parish** had 22 points and 16 rebounds before fouling out with 2:24 left in the game. **Dennis Johnson** added 20.

The Bulls were led by **Sidney Green's** 21 points.

January 31, at Landover, Md. Celtics 97, Bullets 88

Kevin McHale has been missing from the lineup with an injury, but **Scott Wedman** has been picking up the slack for the great forward just fine.

Wedman had another good game, a game-high 24 points on 11 of 17 shooting from the field, to lead the Celtics over the Bullets before a sold-out Capital Centre.

"I hate to see somebody get hurt," **Wedman** said. "But I'm glad to get the opportunity to play. On this team, it's easy to fill in, because they're such good players and know you're strengths."

Wedman scored eight points in the game's first four minutes and had 17 at the half.

Ex-76er Leon Wood led the Bullet scoring with 21 points.

February 2, at Boston Celtics 114, Seattle 101

Boston rallied from a 21-point deficit to top the SuperSonics and won its 11th straight game, but Celtics Coach **K.C. Jones** wasn't too thrilled with the proceedings in this afternoon game at the Garden.

"We really weren't ready to play," **Jones** said. "We were completely outthrustled from the start. We weren't bad, we were ugly, totally ugly. Imagine us falling behind by 21 points after 13 minutes of play."

"I was happy with the second half, but in the first half, all I could think of was that we wasted two road wins (Thursday and Friday)."

Ex-Celtic Gerald Henderson scored 10 first-quarter points, as the Sonics built a 37-20 lead after 12 minutes. That edge was later extended to 47-26. But **Larry Bird** scored 10 times in the third quarter, and the Celtics melted the deficit to 12, and they were on their way.

Dennis Johnson led the Celtics with 24 points and **Bird** added 22. **Xavier McDaniel** had 21 points for Seattle and **Henderson** and **Jack Sikma** had 20 apiece.

Celtics 101, Bulls 91

BOSTON (101)
Bird 10-23 6-6 26, Wedman 6-14 4-4 16, Parish 9-12 4-4 22, Johnson 7-14 6-6 20, Ainge 6-13 0-0 12, Walton 2-7 3-3 7, Sichting 1-3 0-0 2, Thirskill 2-6 2-4 6, Vincent 0-4 0-0 0, Carlisle 2-3 0-0 4, Kite 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 43-77 10-13 97.

CHICAGO (91)
Green 7-14 3-8 21, Banks 3-7 3-4 9, Oldrem 1-7 0-0 2, Macy 4-10 0-0 8, Gervin 4-11 1-1 9, Oakley 6-15 4-4 16, Corrine 5-9 4-5 14, Maxson 0-2 0-0 0, Oakley 5-8 2-5 12. Totals 35-84 12-27 91.

Boston 27 22 25—101
Chicago 28 24 21—91
Fouled out—Parish, Vans. Rebounds & Boston 39 (Parish 16), Chicago 49 (Green 10). Assists—Boston 20 (Johnson 8), Chicago 23 (Banks 11). Total fouls & Boston 24, Chicago 28. Technical—Bird. A—15,207.

Celtics 97, Bullets 88

BOSTON (97)
Bird 5-14 4-4 14, Wedman 11-17 1-2 24, Parish 8-16 0-0 16, Ainge 5-8 0-0 10, Johnson 6-13 0-0 12, Walton 2-7 3-3 7, Sichting 1-3 0-0 2, Thirskill 2-6 2-4 6, Vincent 0-4 0-0 0, Carlisle 2-3 0-0 4, Kite 1-4 0-0 2. Totals 43-77 10-13 97.

WASHINGTON (88)
Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Robinson 5-7 0-7 16, Bol 2-5 3-4 7, Malone 6-14 1-3 13, Williams 3-11 0-0 6, Daye 2-4 0-0 4, Rutland 6-11 3-3 15, Wood 8-20 2-4 21, Roundfield 3-10 0-0 6, Bradley 0-1 0-0 0, McKenna 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-86 19-21 87.

Boston 26 25 24—97
Washington 18 28 36—88
Three-point goals—Wood & Wedman. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Boston 40 (Parish 14), Washington 54 (Rutland 12). Assists—Boston 31 (Ainge 9), Washington 16 (Williams 6). Total fouls—Boston 16, Washington 16. Technical—Boston illegal defense. A—19,120.

Celtics 114, Sonics 101

SEATTLE (101)
Vranes 3-5 1-3 7, McDaniel 8-16 5-8 21, Sikma 7-16 6-6 20, Henderson 10-20 0-0 20, Young 1-5 3-3 5, Wood 6-15 4-4 16, McCormick 1-1 2-2 4, Phelps 1-2 0-0 2, Drickowski 0-0 0-0 0, Pope 0-0 0-0 0, Sobers 0-1 4-4 4, Chambers 0-2 2-2 2. Totals 37-83 27-32 101.

BOSTON (114)
Wedman 7-13 0-0 15, Bird 4-17 1-4 16, Parish 6-10 1-2 13, Johnson 10-15 4-4 24, Ainge 3-4 2-2 8, Walton 1-5 2-2 4, Sichting 5-8 1-1 11, Carlisle 2-2 0-0 4, Kite 1-2 0-0 2, Thirskill 3-4 3-4 9, Vincent 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 48-81 27-31 114.

Seattle 37 26 14 24—101
Boston 20 31 31 32—114
Three-point goals—Wedman. Fouled out—Ainge. Rebounds—Seattle 47 (McDaniel 9), Boston 46 (Bird 11). Assists—Seattle 24 (Henderson 7), Boston 28 (Johnson 7). Total fouls—Seattle 26, Boston 25. A—14,890.





Eddie Gillooly

DJ Wuz Robbed!

The next time I hear a member of the media spout off that the coaches, not the fans, should select the players for the NBA All-Star game, I'll challenge him from here to Dallas to explain what logic the coaches used this year to choose the remaining seven players for the East squad.

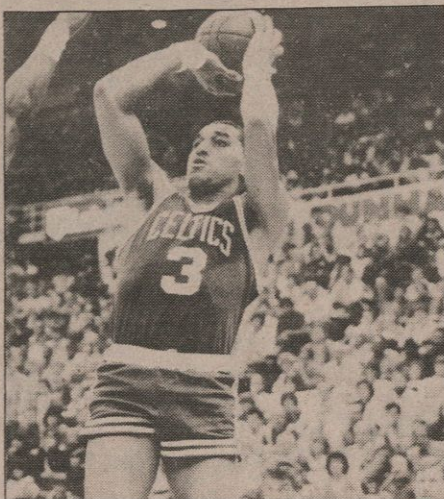
The snubbing of Dennis Johnson was a disgrace and proved that the coaches aren't always in sync with the rest of the world. The fans participating in the LITE/NBA All-Star Voting promotion gave DJ a heavy vote which he deserved and he finished in fourth place among the guards, far ahead of Maurice Cheeks and Jeff Malone, who were selected by the coaches for the 36th NBA All-Star game.

I regard Cheeks as one of the outstanding guards in the NBA and acknowledge that Malone is enjoying a tremendous season, but neither can match the all-around skills of Dennis Johnson. The veteran Celtics guard came into this season with All-Star credentials and has enhanced his reputation with one sensational game after another.

There isn't a coach in the East Conference who hasn't lauded Johnson's performance following a match with the Celtics. And yet, they collectively deprived him of the opportunity to play in his sixth All-Star game. Defensively, DJ HAS NO PEERS AMONG THE GUARDS IN THE NBA. Offensively, his unselfishness is the only reason he doesn't average 20 points a game.

In the voting by the fans, Johnson received 360,069 votes. Cheeks finished sixth with 247,997 and Malone 10th with 207,145. The coaches even by-passed a deserving World Free who placed fifth in the voting with 347,110 votes.

It's unfortunate that DJ's defensive skills overshadow his offensive talents because it's obvious the



D.J. deserved to be in Dallas.

coaches concentrated on the scoring stats when making their selections, especially in the case of Malone. Johnson is the consummate team player whose key role on offense is to get the ball inside to his teammates for layups.

Another strange selection by the coaches was the naming of Buck Williams of New Jersey as one of the forwards. Williams, although he should have been, wasn't even in the top 10 in the balloting for the East forwards. But the coaches opted for him over Terry Cummings of the Bucks, Wayman Tisdale of Indiana, Paul Pressey of the Bucks, Charles Barkley of the Sixers and Roy Hinson of the Cavs, who held the last five spots in the balloting, and Kelly Tripucka of the Pistons who finished third in the voting.

If the coaches' rationale was to have as many teams represented as possible, the naming of Hinson or Tisdale would have sufficed, since neither Cleveland nor Indiana has a player on the squad. If they were looking for a rebounder, Barkley could have been a choice but that would have given Philadelphia four players on the squad.

Obviously, the coaches refrained from naming four players from one team because that's the only rationale that can be ascertained in the snubbing of Johnson. But the

choice that would have made the most sense at the forward position was Terry Cummings of the Bucks.

The coaches' selections for the center position was the only one on target. They picked Patrick Ewing of the Knicks to showcase the league's top rookie in the All-Star classic and then made the right move in choosing Robert Parish, even though he finished fifth in the balloting behind Bill Laimbeer of the Pistons and Jeff Ruland of the Bullets.

Parish has been a perennial all-star since joining the Celtics and except for a couple of "soft" games this season, he continues to prove game after game that he's one of the top centers in the NBA. Ewing received more votes because the fans responded to his recognition as the most dominating rookie in the league but right now Parish belongs next to Moses Malone as the class among the centers in the East.

With the addition of Bill Walton to the Celtics cast, Parish is able to perform full-tilt, knowing that he'll get the necessary rest. He's also become more aggressive this season because he doesn't have to worry about getting into foul trouble. Parish's game has been at an All-Star level all season.

The oddity of the media's complaint about the fans participation is that the top ten players selected by the fans at mid-season for the All-Star game have been almost identical each year to the 10 players selected at the end of the season by the media.

Under the sponsorship of Miller Brewing Company, the LITE/NBA Voting promotion negates the opportunists in the various cities who opt for ballot stuffing to promote individual players. With the large amount of votes being cast throughout the league each year (3 million) it is too difficult to dent the final outcome with the stuffing of a lot of ballots.

Each of the 23 teams is given a maximum of 300,000 ballots for the voting. Generally, no more than 150,000 to 175,000 is cast by one franchise. That amount of votes is miniscule in the overall lot of 3 million. Also, the punch-out system which is utilized enables the computer to reject ballots that are gang-punched.

In the LITE/NBA Voting program, the fans selected the following players to start in the 36th NBA All-Star game at Reunion Arena, Dallas, February 9. The starters selected in

the East are: Center Moses Malone, forwards Larry Bird and Julius Erving, guards Michael Jordan and Isiah Thomas. Since Jordan is injured, Sidney Moncrief, who placed third in the balloting, will start.

The starting unit in the West, selected by the fans are: center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; forwards Ralph Sampson and James Worthy; guards Magic Johnson and Alvin Robertson.

Magic Johnson was the top vote getter in the balloting with 1,060,892 votes followed by Jordan (719,143), Bird (702,440), Abdul-Jabbar (666,826), Thomas (666,013), Malone (615,089), Erving (596,875), Sampson (516,087), and Moncrief (503,105). The other two starters in the West, Worthy (461,528) and Robertson (378,557) did not reach the half-million mark in votes received.

The vote for the Celtics starting unit was: Bird (702,440), McHale (379,696), Johnson (360,069), Parish (251,576) and Ainge (222,678). Bird, McHale and Parish will participate in the All-Star game.

Bird Named All-State/NBA Player of the Week

Larry Bird, who averaged 28.7 points, 10 rebounds 7.7 assists per game in leading the Boston Celtics to a 3-0 record that week. Was named the All-State/NBA Player of the Week for the period ending Sunday, January 19.

Bird's best game of the week came at Atlanta when he scored 41 points in a 125-122 overtime decision over the Hawks, hitting 15-of-27 from the field (including 2-of-4 three-pointers) and 9-of-11 from the line. He also had seven rebounds, six assists, three steals and two blocks in that game as the Celtics rallied from a 27-point deficit to win.

The 6-foot-9 forward started his week with 24 points, 14 rebounds and nine assists in a 123-100 win over Denver then had 21 points, nine rebounds and eight assists in a 123-105 win at Indiana. For the week he shot .567 from the field on 34-of-60 (including 6-of-11 three-pointers) and .857 from the line on 12-of-14. Bird currently ranks fifth in the NBA in scoring at 24.6 ppg, first in free throw percentage at .922, seventh in three-point percentage at .370 and eighth in steals at 2.18 per game while leading the Celtics with 9.1 rebounds and 6.4 assists per game.

In winning All State/NBA Player of the Week honors, Bird beat out Clyde Drexler of Portland, Bill Laimbeer of Detroit, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the LA Lakers, Kevin McHale of Boston and Karl Malone of Utah.

Fashion Show for Special Olympics on March 6, 1986

Celtics Go Formal To Benefit Handicapped

They're most recognizable in sneakers, shorts and tank tops, dribbling, passing and shooting their way atop the National Basketball Association and into the hearts of their faithful followers. Rarely does the public get a chance to see the Boston Celtics offstage, to visit with them and their families away from the basketball court, to share a social occasion with them.

However, such an opportunity will present itself on March 6th, 1986, when the Celtics family has a formal get-together at the Third Annual Boston Celtics Dinner, Fashion Show and Auction for the benefit of Massachusetts Special Olympics, this year to be held at the beautiful Westin Hotel in downtown Boston. Just about all the present Celtics, as well as many all-time greats, will join their wives and families to model the fashions of Yolanda's of Waltham, Mr. Sid's and Mr. Tux. Following the show and dinner will be a spectacular auction of valuable trips, services and Celtics memorabilia.

This special event has grown in leaps and bounds since its inception just two years ago. At the time, Ken Hodge, the Director of Massachusetts Special Olympics, and Tod Rosen-sweig, the Celtics Director of Marketing and Communications, had been searching for a means to involve the Celtics in a fundraising project for the benefit of MSO. Larry O'Brien, the Commissioner of the NBA, had identified the league with Special Olympics by designating it the NBA's official charity.

"We were looking," said Rosen-sweig recently, "to stage an event that would accomplish two things. First, we wanted to raise money for Special Olympics and to involve the Celtics in a major fundraiser. Second,



Michelle and Danny Ainge "brighten up the show".



Justin Parish (middle) is a "willing" model.

we wanted to create something fun, something that would be self-perpetuating and that all of us -- the staff, players and people attending -- could look forward to participating in year after year."

"We're hoping to sell at least 100 tables and to net as much as \$100,000 for Special Olympics."

Both of those goals have been realized, more than even the founders of the event had hoped. The initial show, on March 15, 1984, brought almost 400 people to the Sheraton-Boston Hotel and raised about \$7,500 for Massachusetts Special Olympics. The second, on March 19, 1985, had 700 people in attendance and raised about \$40,000.

Peter Waystack, a Melrose, Mass. attorney who has been the Chairman of the event's organizing committee for the past two years, has ambitious goals for 1986. "We're hoping to sell at least 100 tables and to net as much as \$100,000 for Special Olympics," Waystack reports. "Judging from the early response to our invitations, we have an excellent shot at attaining these goals."

Special Olympics is a grass roots program whose durability and strength are shapped by the dedication and commitment of its small professional staff and its hundreds of thousands of volunteers in

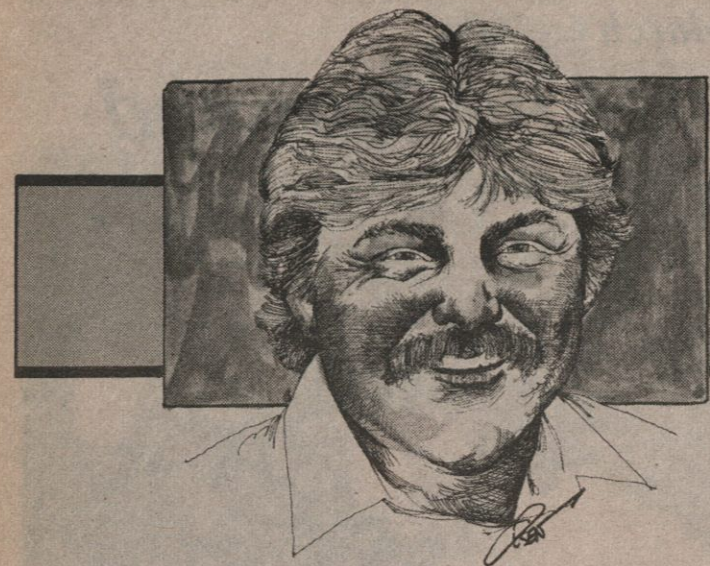
Auction Features Quality Items to Bid On

Two different auctions will take place at the gala event on March 6th, with all proceeds from both going directly to Massachusetts Special Olympics. During the cocktail and dinner portion of the evening, a silent auction will be taking place, allowing interested parties to enter written bids on some Celtics memorabilia and other exciting items.

The top-of-the-line auction items will be offered following dinner, with popular former Celtic M.L. Carr serving as head auctioneer; some surprise guest auctioneers are expected as well. The following is a sampling, but not all, of the items available for bidding:

- a trip for two to Pebble Beach, California
- a trip for two to Hawaii
- a trip for two to Bermuda
- a cruise with the Celtics, leaving on June 21, 1986
- use of a private luxury box in the Boston Garden for Celtics games and other Garden events
- the opportunity to take a road trip with the Celtics
- the chance to serve as an honorary ballboy for an evening at a Celtics game
- authentic jerseys of other NBA stars, including Magic Johnson, Julius Erving and Manute Bol
- other trips





Glenn Ordway

Who Else But Bird?

In my travels over the last few months, it became commonplace to pick up the morning newspaper and read another "Larry Bird's Career in Jeopardy" story.

The rumors of Bird's demise may have been grossly exaggerated. In fact, in my mind, he is enroute to copping the league's Most Valuable Player trophy for the third straight season. Think about it. Who is going to beat him out for the honor? Both Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar are definite candidates. But there's no question that two players vying for the same title on one team will simply end up splitting the vote. And some west coast writers and broadcasters may cast their ballot for James Worthy, diversifying the LA vote even more. Even if Michael Jordan comes back in spectacular fashion in the second half of the year, he's missed too many games to even be considered a possibility. And Bernard King the same. Like Bird, Moses Malone has put his season in order over the last two months. Philly's big man is averaging 23.4 points per game with 11.6 rebounds. But as your team goes...so goes your chances of winning MVP honors. The media seem to select their choice from the team with the best regular season record or the second best record. Even if Philadelphia were to surprise Boston in the playoffs, Malone would not benefit. The voting takes place over the course of the last two weeks of the regular season. That leaves one outside challenge for Bird...Akeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets. In just his sophomore season, Olajuwon has established himself as the offensive rebounding leader in the NBA, averaging 11.3 total rebounds a game and 23.2 points. He has led his team to an amazing 25-1 home record as well as the top spot in the Midwest division. He has emerged as the true team leader, which is one of the ingredients required to win this award. But once again, he is dependent on great voting support from the Western conference media. And they



Can Larry get three in a row?

are more conditioned to vote for the two big guns on the NBA's defending World Championship team. And if Los Angeles assumes the best record in the West, which is likely, Olajuwon's chances diminish even more.

That leaves the Celtics #33. Those early season rumors of his demise were based on a theory that his back and elbow injuries were caused by bodily abuse. The constant pounding in the trenches, diving for loose balls and sprinting to get out on the fast break had taken its toll. Many simply felt his odometer had passed 100,000 miles. And as he approached thirty years of age (he's currently 29) there was no way of turning back the odometer.

In fact, the opposite was true. It was those injuries that prevented Bird from doing those little extra things that separate him from the rest of the pack. He does not possess great speed nor great leaping ability, but makes up for it with sheer guts and determination every minute he's on the court. More so than any athlete I have ever seen. With an injured back and elbow, his skills were limited even more so. The main ingredient required for his game to succeed is

hard work. Four to Five hours a day of shooting, running sprints and laboring in the trenches. Larry has always had that unique quality of being able to play effectively with pain. But the back injury was so severe that it prevented him from getting his daily dose of required work when it was needed the most....

August, September and October. The result...a rough start to a season billed as "Revenge". But as we drifted into December, it became more apparent that his nightly laboring was beginning to pay off. He used the first two months of the season to work his body into peak performance stage. By the end of January, there was no doubt...the MVP Larry Bird was back.

Only two players in NBA history have won the league's Most Valuable Player award three years in a row. Bill Russell did it in 60-61, 61-62 and 62-63. Wilt Chamberlain took the title in 65-66, 66-67 and 67-68. This June, Larry Bird should be the third and first non-center to accomplish the feat. And this one should be more gratifying than the first two. For this year, he did it the old fashion way — he earned it.

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PATRIOTS

A tip of the hat from the...

"The Man Behind the Mike"

By Dave Zuccaro

If one cogitates of a pro sports Public Address Announcer, the most acknowledged is the Philadelphia 76ers dynamic Dave Zinkoff; however, the Boston Celtics may boast of a mild-mannered phenom who denounced the myth that a successful P.A. person has to demonstrate raucous ability in cheer-leading for a form of entertainment.

Andy Jick may not have a household name, but his voice is familiar to the 14,890 patrons of the Celtics' basketball. "Boston doesn't need an entertainer to sell seats like Philadelphia does," explains Jick of his rather conservative style in comparison to the late, great Zinkoff. "I feel emotion when Larry (Bird) scores two points, even though I may not show it." Zinkoff was infamous for his chaotic chants like "Julius Errrrrring" and "Lloyd Freeeeeee..." among others.

Jick's relationship with the Celtics dates back to the fall of 1970, when his collegiate roommate Mark Volk (brother of now Celtics' General Manager Jan Volk) asked Andy if he would be interested in handing out promotional material at "photo night." Jick was and that was the start of better things to come. He later aided the visiting broadcast crews that did games for a number of years as a stats person while attending college.

A more extensive experience in pro sports followed with the now-defunct Boston Lobsters of the ill-fated World Team Tennis league from 1974-1978. "My job duties included season ticket sales and group tickets sales among other," described Jick of his role as Director of Operations with the Lobsters.

Since 1978, Jick has been employed at International Forest Products as a Sales Service Manager. He is responsible for exporting and shipping domestic purchases of raw materials for a company that is an export trading and domestic packaging corporation. In fact, his superior, Robert Kraft, is rumored to be a possibility as the next owner of the New England Patriots.

In tradition with Celtics basketball, a capable replacement is always ready - whether it be a role player, who might start for an injured front line player or, in this case, a back-up P.A. announcer. Although Jick today does the calling for the Celtics, it was the Celtics who came calling for Jick when a P.A. man was needed in April, 1978.

Jick became the man behind the mike when then - P.A. man Steve Smith was stricken with a near-fatal heart attack just hours before a home game. Having done P.A. work at Brandeis College, Jick stepped in almost unprepared for that game and continued for the few remaining contests.



Andy Jick has his own style as Celtics P.A. Announcer.

After Smith retired, radio personality Steve Holman was appointed as the successor. Holman held the responsibility for the next two seasons before being transferred to Atlanta in his full-time job as a radio broadcaster. Then-Assistant General Manager Jeff Cohen hired Jick at that point.

As Jick begins his sixth season as

a minor official, he reminisces about the great moments he's witnessed first hand. "John Havlicek's retirement was a historic occasion. The outpouring of emotion from the crowd was unbelievable." Jick also feels that any game against Philadelphia, no matter the importance, is exciting due to the nature of the rivalry between the two franchises.

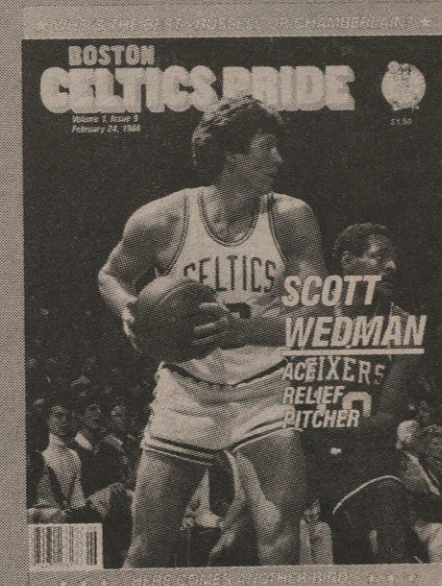
"But the 7th game of the 1984 NBA Finals (when Boston defeated the Lakers) holds special meaning to me."

The obvious reason for that "special meaning" would be that Boston won their 15th World Championship that evening, but another triumph reached a climax with that game. In May 1984, Andy received word from doctors that he may not speak properly again due to a benign tumor in his mouth (in fact, it was a rare tumor that was without precedence in Boston medical history). Its effects were puzzling to the men of medicine. When Jick inquired about continuing at Celtics' games, the doctors gave him the option of returning. Committed to the Green, he decided to come back, starting with the series against the Bucks and concluding with the dramatic conquest of Los Angeles.

"Everyone on the scoring crew has another job and other responsibilities, so what we do with the Celtics is a labor of love. We enjoy the product and have the best seat in the house."

He may not explode with a bombastic rendition of "Robert Parisssshh" like his former counter-part might have in Philadelphia, but Jick's style is his own. "Last season, I went to see the Sixers and Celtics in Philadelphia and Jimmy Rodgers (Celtics Assistant Coach) approached me and said 'You must be here to see the Zink. Have you ever met him?' My response was 'you mean has the Zink ever met me.'"

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Kim Wedman: Stability in Motion

She grew up in Southern California, went to school in Colorado, and has lived since in Kansas City, Cleveland and Boston. That much motion and transition might be cause for confusion in some people. But not for Kim Wedman, the wife of Boston Celtics forward Scott Wedman; she has learned to thrive among the changes and to create stability through the chaos.

Kim is a product of Newport Beach and the San Fernando Valley in California; "I guess you could say I'm a valley girl," she jokes. She was raised in a large family, with one sister and four step-siblings. From her California background, she acquired her lifelong love of nature and the outdoors, focusing particularly on swimming and horseback riding.

After one year at Mills College in Oakland, California, she transferred to the University of Colorado, where she studied both Art and Education, gaining her degree with a dual major. "In Colorado, they have an Experiential Education program. I was never one who learned, like some people, by soaking up information in books. I learned a lot more three-dimensionally, so my thinking as I got into education myself was more along those lines. At Colorado, there was obviously an emphasis on the study of nature, and one of the things I did was get a scholarship to a program called Outward Bound. I also student taught my last six weeks at Colorado."

Kim met her eventual husband on a blind date during their junior year at Colorado. After their graduation in 1974, though, they went their separate ways, Scott moving to Kansas City as the first round draft selection of the (then) Kansas City-Omaha Kings and Kim accepting a job with a medical company that was specializing in diagnostic ultra-sound, then a new field. She worked for two years in that field.

"I was an education specialist," she recalls, "teaching doctors and technicians who we were selling these instruments to. I put on seminars and workshops throughout the country. It was fascinating; and while I was doing all that traveling, I had some chances to swing to wherever Scott was to visit with him." The two were married in California in the summer of 1976 and moved back to Kansas City that fall.

One surprising stabilizing influence on the Wedmans entered their lives shortly after their arrival in Kansas City, in the form of their Irish Setter, Mica, a wedding gift from some friends. "There I was, moving to a new place where I didn't know anybody. It was very perceptive of my friends to give us Mica; she was my buddy in those early days while



Kim (R), here with Nancy Parish, is well equipped for any occurrence.

Scott was away and before we got really settled in Kansas City."

Through their subsequent moves to Cleveland and then Boston, Kansas City has remained home to Kim and Scott. It is there that they have their primary house, which is maintained during their absence by Kim's sister, Christine. They have also initiated a growing real estate business in that city, which is overseen by their business partner, Steve Krischen, and his wife.

Kansas City has become a special place to the Wedmans, a place to retreat after the rigors of the long season and to plan for the future. "Our friends in Kansas City are really special to us," Kim states. "They're very supportive. Once you make strong ties with good people, there's no need to look anywhere else."

Each of their other two stops in the NBA have also had a positive impact on Kim, though. "Our year and a half in Cleveland was great. I can't say enough about the people there. I got interested in Jazzercise while we were there, and we made a lot of good friends, blue-collar workers who were helpful to us in a relaxed way. We enjoyed our time there."

Things were not so great, however, on the basketball court. In fact, she says, "they couldn't have been worse. In one year, we had three head coaches and a total of 26 players. Scott broke his toe and missed quite a few games, and it was a very difficult situation."

Then came the trade of January 14, 1983, which brought Scott to Boston in exchange for Darren Tillis. That deal was to give him the ultimate

in professional accomplishment, an NBA championship.

"When we got traded here, that was unbelievable. It was a real big thrill for me after coming from that experience (in Cleveland). You appreciate the support of the fans here so much after coming from a city

where you get used to seeing only three or four thousand fans at a game. When I first came into Boston Garden -- I had never been there before Scott got traded here -- we looked at all those banners, and we were moved."

Kim does not find it difficult being married to a celebrity. "We live in such a private area here, and we're kind of private people. Our social life pretty much revolves around basketball. Going to a movie is a big night out for us. We enjoy bike riding and taking walks near our home, but we find that during the season it's hard to find a free night."

One major addition to her lifestyle came about when Nancy Parish, the wife of Celtics center Robert Parish, introduced Kim to the oriental art of Kung Fu. She has embraced it as a daily activity that fills an important need for her. "Kung Fu is all mine; it gives me a real sense of self. Nancy is the one who brought me into it, but I always knew that it was something that might interest me. I'm a physically-oriented person, and Kung Fu gives me a physical activity that also tests me mentally."

When Scott's basketball career concludes, he and Kim will return to their base of operation in Kansas City. Until then, though, she will continue to find the best in each stop along the way.

NBA Offering \$50,000 In Scholarships To Deserving High School Seniors

The National Basketball Association and its 23 teams will be awarding a minimum of \$50,000 in college scholarships to high school seniors based on academic and extracurricular achievements, regardless of athletic ability.

For the sixth consecutive year, each of the 23 teams in the league will award at least two \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors residing within a 75-mile radius of their arenas. Four additional scholarships will be awarded by the NBA to seniors residing outside the 75-mile radius.

"The NBA is pleased to be able to aid high school seniors who wish to further their educations," said NBA Commissioner David J. Stern. "In helping these students realize their goals, the NBA is reaffirming its position on the importance of higher education."

In addition to the two league-sponsored scholarships per team, 10 additional scholarships were offered last year by teams as a public service to their communities.

To apply for an NBA Scholarship,

a high school senior must submit an official application form, his or her transcript through the junior year, SAT or ACT scores, a letter of recommendation from a faculty member and an essay of no more than 500 words on the subject, "The Importance of a College Education."

Each team will select a panel of judges to award its local scholarships. A national panel will be selected by Stern to award the four national scholarships.

Applications and all requirements must be received by March 15th, 1986 and the Scholarship winners will be announced by April 15th, 1986.

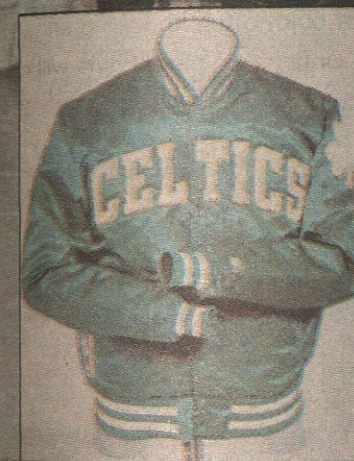
To submit an application for the Boston Celtics NBA Scholarships, mail all materials to: NBA Scholarships, c/o Boston Celtics, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, Mass. 02114. Those living more than 75 miles from the Boston Garden should submit their applications to the offices of their local NBA teams or the NBA office in New York.

For further information, contact NBA Scholarships, 645 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

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NBA Notebook

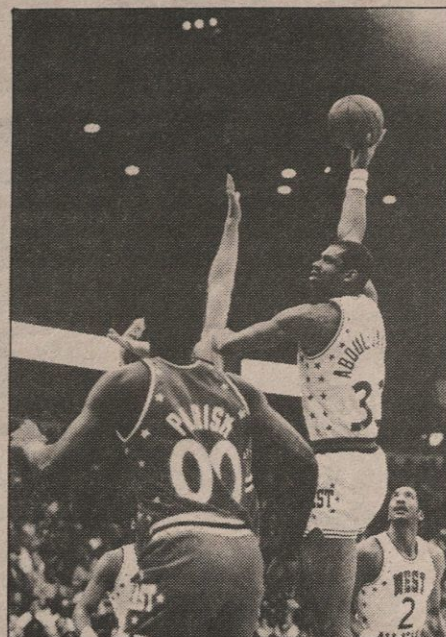


By Terry Lyons

Five NBA veterans and one rookie made their All-Star debuts when the league celebrated its 36th annual All-Star Game, Sunday, Feb. 9 at Reunion Arena in Dallas. Rookie center **Patrick Ewing** of New York joined fourth year forward **Dominique Wilkins** of Atlanta and third-year guard **Jeff Malone** of Washington as All-Star newcomers for the Eastern Conference while young veterans **James Worthy** of LA Lakers, **Clyde Drexler** of Portland and **Alvin Robertson** of San Antonio enjoyed their first All-Star classic as members of the West team... Of the 1986 NBA All-Stars, only **Larry Bird**, **Julius Erving**, **Akeem Olajuwon**, **Ralph Sampson** and **Isiah Thomas** had been named to the All-Star team each of their years in the NBA (not including rookie **Patrick Ewing**). **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** of the LA Lakers was selected as an All-Star each of his 17 NBA seasons except 1978, and he was selected but permitted not to play in 1973. **Magic Johnson** of the Lakers missed the 1981 All-Star Game after knee surgery sidelined him for 45 games... **George Gervin** of Chicago did not play in the All-Star Game for the first time since joining the NBA as a member of the San Antonio Spurs and competing in the 1977 game... **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** competed in his 16th NBA All-Star Game, extending the record he set last year in Indiana. **Wilt Chamberlain**, **Bob Cousy** and **John Havlicek** are next in All-Star Game experience with 13 contests each... East Coach **K.C. Jones** of the Boston Celtics coached in his third consecutive NBA All-Star Game while **Pat Riley** of the LA Lakers coached his second straight classic. Both coaches have a long way to go before catching **Red Auerbach**, who coached in 11 consecutive NBA All-Star Games from 1957 to 1967... The 1986 NBA All-Star Game was

the first NBA midseason classic played in the state of Texas. The 1975 ABA All-Star Game was played in San Antonio and was won by the East 151-124.

"Average" is hardly the word when you describe an NBA All-Star. But if you're a statistical nut you're sure to be interested in the fact that the Western Conference had a slight edge over their Eastern counterparts, being a little taller, a bit more bulky, a few months older and a little wiser in terms of All-Star experience. The "average" West All-Star stood 6-feet-9, weighed 218 1/2 pounds, is 27.91 years old and has 3.4 years of All-Star experience under his belt. The "average" East All-Star stood 6-foot-7, weighed 213 1/2 pounds, is 27.75 years old and has 3.25 years of All-Star experience as the game begins... Further study of the 1986 NBA All-Star rosters proved that NBA basketball is truly "America's Game" as the players came from all parts of the country with regard to their former colleges and high schools. Twenty-one different universities were represented with Arkansas (**Sidney Moncief** and **Alvin Robertson**), Houston (**Akeem Olajuwon** and **Clyde Drexler**) and UCLA (**Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** and **Marques Johnson**) the only schools with multiple representation... If you're a high school trivia buff you'll find that North Carolina (**Dominique Wilkins**, **Buck Williams** and **James Worthy**) and New York (**Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**, **Rolando Blackman** and **Julius Erving**) each sent three schoolboys to the ranks of 1986 NBA All-Stars while Illinois and Virginia each sent two. A total of 17 states had NBA All-Stars hailing from high schools within their boundaries... Now for you foreign trivia experts, their were four NBA All-Stars born outside the 50 United States: **Rolando Blackman** (Panama),



Abdul-Jabbar: An All-Star 16 times!

Patrick Ewing (Jamaica), **Akeem Olajuwon** (Nigeria) and **Dominique Wilkins** (France).

The 1986 NBA All-Star Game official program is available to all fans who send \$6.50 to: **NBA All-Star Game Program**, P.O. Box 1750, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. Offer includes postage and handling. All orders must be placed by March 31.

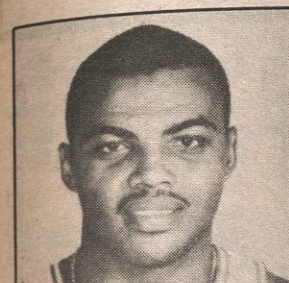
When the developers of Dallas' Reunion Arena named the beautiful facility back in April, 1980, they must have had the 1986 NBA All-Star Weekend in mind. The home of the Mavericks was the site of many happy reunions as former Boston Celtics great **Bill Russell** headed the East squad and former NBA iron-man **Johnny Kerr** coached the West team in the Schick NBA Legends Classic held All-Star Saturday, February 8, 1986... Russell was reunited with several Celtics teammates from his playing and coaching years, as **Bob Cousy**, **John Havlicek**, **Bailey Howell** and **Tom "Satch" Sanders** all appeared in the event. In addition, former Celtics **Dave Cowens** and **Pete Maravich** suited up for the East Legends along with **Walt Ballamy**, **Walt Frazier** and **Connie Hawkins**... The West Legends were coached by Kerr, the former mentor of the Chicago Bulls and Phoenix Suns who was named NBA Coach of the Year in 1967 after taking the Bulls to the NBA Playoffs in their first year. Kerr's claim to fame as an NBA player was his 844 consecutive games played streak which was broken in 1983 when **Randy Smith** passed the mark and eventually set the current con-

secutive game record at 906... Kerr's West Legends were led by four members of the Hall of Fame as guards **Oscar Robertson** and **Slater Martin** joined center **Nate Thurmond** and forward **Tom Gola**... Martin, and All-American guard from the 1949 University of Texas club, was the oldest player in the Schick NBA Legends Classic at 60 while Cowens (10-25-48), Maravich (6-22-48) and **Calvin Murphy** (5-9-48) were the youngest at age 37... LA Lakers center **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**, born 4-16-47, was older than three of the Legends but started in the All-Star Game.

LA Lakers guard **Magic Johnson** jumped out to a midseason lead in the Schick Pivotal Player Award standings. Johnson, the 1984 winner of the honor, is making the most outstanding statistical contribution to his team, according to a computer evaluation of all statistical categories. **Jack Sikma** of Seattle and **Larry Nance** of Phoenix were running second and third behind Johnson in the standings... Indiana's **Vern Fleming** remembers back to the age of 7 when he'd play basketball all day in the cold, often shoveling snow off the outdoor playground courts. "Basketball was the main thing," said Fleming. "All you had to do was get a ball because there was a court on every block. The easiest thing to do when you had one or two or three guys was to play basketball. When you played baseball or football, you needed a lot of guys..." Houston's **Lewis Lloyd** had always been known as a great open court scorer. But Lloyd's improved play lately is largely due to "improved defense," according to the Rockets' star. "It's a tough job," says Lloyd of playing defense. "I'd have to say that **Otis Birdsong** of New Jersey, **World Free** of Cleveland and **Michael Jordan** of Chicago are the toughest players I've had to face as a pro..." The Indiana Pacers have joined with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Indiana to present the first statewide corporate basketball tournament. Teams will compete at eight regional sites with finalists advancing to competition scheduled for April 4-5. The championship of the **Indiana Corporate Classic** will be held prior to the Pacers' April 5th game vs. Detroit at Market Square Arena... **Manute Bol** of the Washington Bullets was visibly upset after his Jan. 14 altercation with Chicago's **Jawaan Oldham**. Bol explained his side of the story to reporters stating, "We were jockeying for position after I boxed him out for a rebound. All of a sudden, he hit me in the back. If I want to fight, I can go to Libya or Lebanon!"



Roundball Spoken Here



Charles Barkley



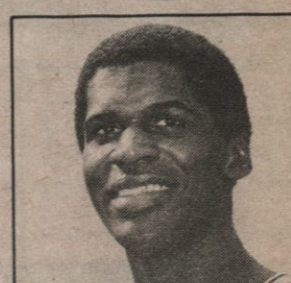
Kevin McHale

Charles Barkley, Comparing the Cleveland Cavs to the Celtics: "I think Cleveland has a more talented team individually, 1 through 12. I'm not saying Cleveland is a better team than Boston. I am saying the Cavaliers have more talented players from their first man through their last man."

"The Celtics have all stars---Larry Bird's the Man...DJ, Parish, Kevin McHale.

"But I don't believe the Celtics think they can beat us. We should have won each game we played against them. We threw the games away."

Robert Parish, describes Coach K.C. Jones: "What I like about him is that when he needs to scold, he does it one-on-one instead of in public. If I don't box out, he'll yell at me and give me that look, like I owe him money or something!"



Robert Parish



Bill Walton

Kevin McHale after the Celtics had rallied from a 70-47 deficit to the Atlanta Hawks and won, 125-122 in overtime: "We were mad. Everybody got mad and we came back. It was certainly one of the greatest comebacks I've ever been involved in. Larry Bird is just an inspirational leader and it's great to have him on your team."

Bill Walton after the same comeback victory: Larry Bird is relentless. He's such a fierce competitor that the score means nothing to him. He'll never admit that he's beat. What happened against the Hawks is because he wouldn't let us lose. He got hot, then we all got hot. Like everybody else, I've come to expect that type of effort from him."

By The Numbers --- January 16 - January 26

The Celtics surged to the top of the NBA with a 6-0 mark during the period, January 16 through 26. Included among the victories were triumphs over the defending NBA champions, the Los Angeles Lakers, and traditional rival Philadelphia.

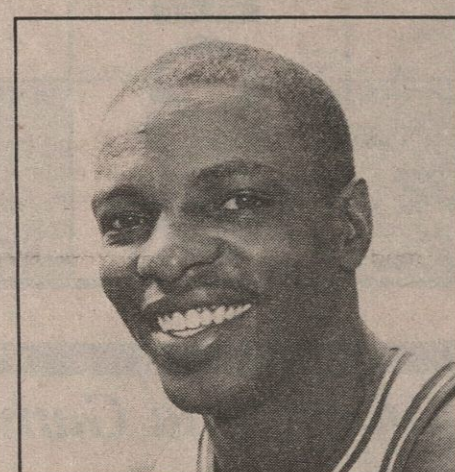
The Celtics' defense took effect: they held the Lakers to 95 on only .386 shooting from the field. The Lakers lead the NBA with a .521 shooting percentage. Later that week, the Sixers could score only 103, Chicago, 91. The Warriors tallied 114 and the Pacers 105, but those teams tallied points after the C's had their games tucked away.

Larry Bird was named Player of the Week in the NBA. During the Celtics 6-0 surge, Bird averaged 27.2 ppg and 10.2 rebounds. Kevin McHale missed two contests with an injured Achilles Tendon.

Larry Bird. Made 14 steals and added 31 assists to the 27.2 scoring average. Bird also scored 10 3-point field goals, including two in a stirring comeback over Atlanta, and three in the nationally televised game against Philadelphia. Scored 41 points, with 7-rebounds, 6-assists, 3-steals, and 2-blocks against the Hawks.

Kevin McHale. Missed Warriors and 76ers games with injury; before these absences, play was hindered. Averaged 20.0 ppg and 8.8 rebounds. Top efforts were 28-points, 7-rebounds, 2-blocks against Pacers; 20-point, 12-rebound, 3-block night vs. Atlanta.

Robert Parish. Best efforts were in money games: 16-points, 11-rebounds, 2-blocks game against Lakers; 13-points, 5-blocks game against Philadelphia, despite early



David Thirdkill: A weapon.

foul trouble. Averaged 17-points and 8-rebounds.

Danny Ainge. As he recovered from ankle injury, play improved. Scored 9 in 1st period of Laker game, finished with 11-points, 8-assists, 6-rebounds. Sixteen-points, 3-assists, 2-rebounds vs. Warriors; 6-points, 7-rebounds, 4-assists against the Sixers.

Dennis Johnson. Premier pressure player, best effort against Lakers: 22 points, 7-rebounds, 6-assists. Only

13 turnovers in last 6 games. Averaged 15 points, 6-assists. 17-points, 4-rebounds, 3-assists vs. Sixers. Seems willing to turn over more ball-handling to Ainge.

Bill Walton. Unparalleled production and enthusiasm off bench. 11-point, 8-rebound, 7-block effort against Lakers. Teamed with Bird to rally C's past Sixers: 19-points, 13-rebounds, 2-blocks in 25 minutes. Led team with 16 blocks in less than 20 minutes per game. Shot 24-34 FG.

Scott Wedman. Displaying to Boston what made him All-Star in KC. Teamed with Bird to rally C's past Atlanta, scoring 21 with 5-rebounds. Started in place of McHale vs. Warriors and 76ers; 21-points, 13-rebounds, 4-assists vs. GS. 16-points, 3-rebounds in 26 minutes against Philadelphia.

Jerry Sichting. Pat Riley feels he's the critical difference off the bench. In his last 10 games he is shooting 36-54, for .667. Shot team past troublesome Warriors: 5-5 FG, 12-points, 6-assists. Seven points highlighted 13 productive minutes against Lakers.

Sam Vincent. Missed Indiana-Atlanta trip with swollen knee. Has struggled to regain rhythm. Two points, 5-assists against Warriors; penetrated effectively against LA, shooting 2-3 from field for 4 points in seven minutes. Making progress and confidence growing in practices.

Rick Carlisle. Reliable, if unsung. Shot 6-13 in 4 games. Six points, 2-rebounds in 17 minutes vs. Pacers. Solid 10 minutes in comeback win over Hawks. Four points in 16 minutes against Warriors.

Greg Kite. Irregular playing time an obstacle for 2nd year pro. Shot 3-7 in 24 minutes, spread over 4 games. Longest stint was 12 minutes vs. Golden State---and a productive one. Three for five from the field, 6-points, 1-rebound.

David Thirdkill. At the end of the bench---a weapon. Finest outing of the season against Sixers: began 4th quarter of tight game with soaring dunk, played strong defense against Erving, tallied 4-points and 3-rebounds in 18 minutes. This game followed a game of season highs against the Warriors: 20-points, 8-rebounds in 22 minutes.

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WON 36, LOST 8

BOSTON CELTICS STATISTICS

PLAYER	--FIELD GOALS--					--FREE THROWS--					--REBOUNDS--					--POINTS--				
	G	QS	MIN	FG	FGA	PCT	FT	FTA	PCT	OFF	DEF	TOT	AST	PF	DO	STL	TO	BLK	PTS	AVG
BIRD	44	44	1690	405	872	46.4	32	84	38.1	106	307	413	120	115	2	19	85	77	876	24.3
MCHEALE	39	39	1501	334	610	54.8	0	0	208	265	785	105	243	348	120	113	2	66	84	12
JOHNSON	41	41	1439	257	548	46.9	2	16	10.6	168	833	38	106	144	223	113	2	66	84	12
PARISH	44	44	1426	278	505	55.0	0	0	134	190	705	137	270	407	81	120	2	41	104	74
AINGE	42	41	1306	203	375	54.1	13	41	31.7	66	73	904	23	114	137	114	2	63	77	5
WEDMAN	44	5	671	151	321	47.0	9	27	33.3	25	43	561	28	71	99	34	67	0	22	26
WALTON	42	0	782	115	218	52.8	0	0	60	87	690	73	182	255	75	114	0	21	85	56
SICHTING	44	6	850	112	205	54.6	0	5	32	33	970	14	38	52	105	74	0	35	43	0
THIRDKILL	20	0	167	28	52	53.8	0	1	23	45	511	16	17	33	7	21	0	4	9	1
VINCENT	32	0	278	30	95	31.6	1	3	33	34	912	4	26	30	34	39	0	12	35	4
CARLISLE	39	0	363	48	97	49.5	0	4	10	15	647	8	25	33	56	42	0	10	26	1
KITE	31	0	158	17	35	48.6	0	0	5	9	556	8	27	35	8	33	1	2	12	7
CELTICS	44		10685	1983	3954	50.2	57	185	30.8	968	1219	754	567	1434	2091	1279	969	9	399	750
OPPONENTS	44		10685	1871	4011	46.6	38	143	24.5	861	1146	751	593	1285	1878	1036	1076	9	392	751



FEBRUARY

HOME AND AWAY
SCHEDULE...
Home Games

BOSTON
CELTICS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 SEATTLE SUPERSONICS 1:00	3	4 MILWAUKEE BUCKS 8:30	5 WASHINGTON BULLETS 7:30	6		
9		11 SACRAMENTO KINGS 10:30	12	13 SEATTLE SUPERSONICS 10:30	14 portland trailblazers 10:00	
16 LOS ANGELES LAKERS 3:30	17 PHOENIX SUNS 9:30	18	19 Golden State WARRIORS 10:30	20 DENVER NUGGETS 9:30	21	
23 INDIANA PACERS 8:00	24	25 NEW YORK KNICKERBOCKERS 7:30	26 SAN ANTONIO SPURS 7:30	27	28 LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS 7:30	

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- 1 Who was the first Celtics T.V. announcer?
- 2 As head coach of the Celtics, what was Red Auerbach's fourth quarter tradition if his team was winning?
- 3 Which Celtic slept on a bench in the Boston Commons after winning the 1974 NBA Championship?
- 4 In 1980 two Celtics retired from basketball - a center and a guard. The center was Dave Cowens. Who was the guard?
- 5 Who said "I could take 4 guys off the street in Petersburg (Virginia) and beat them (the Celtics)"?
- 6 Who said, "I'm going to look awfully silly... if he stuffs the ball and me through the hoop!"

- 1 Les Smith
- 2 Light a cigar
- 3 Dave Cowens
- 4 Pete Maravich
- 5 Moses Malone
- 6 Bill Russell about Wilt Chamberlain

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Basketball Times — College Insight

By Larry Donald

I've watched the last 15 college basketball seasons come and go. Without question this one's produced the most bizarre news stories of 'em all. We started with the wanderings of Tito Horford, stopped next at Pittsburgh for Roy Chipman's thunderclap resignation, then visited Houston for the unexpected resignation of Cougar coach Guy Lewis and now comes the almost unbelievable tale of Minnesota basketball.

To review and dissect:

Horford has now enrolled at Miami (Fla.) and officials there are confident he'll be eligible to play in January of 1987. That eventuation, however, would be the first straight line drawn in this entire story. Of course he signed originally with Houston, but was declared ineligible because of Cougar recruiting improprieties. Then he moved onto LSU for a brief, controversial stay. He reannounced for Houston, but the NCAA denied that school's appeal on the original declaration of his ineligibility. Next Horford's attorney said the youngster would attend Kentucky. No thanks said Eddie Sutton. Okay, then, make it UCLA. No thanks said athletic director Peter Dalis. Finally it was Miami.

It's uncertain what the final disposition of this matter will be. Horford apparently received money while playing for a Dominican Republic team which could make him permanently ineligible. The NCAA is investigating. There's also been speculation the outcome of their probe at LSU may have some effect on when he's entitled to play. But isn't it interesting that two programs so desperate in their need for a big man as Kentucky and UCLA would find him just too hot to handle? Frankly, I'm not sure just what that says....

At Pittsburgh, Chipman's ballclub plays erratically and there seems little likelihood for any repeat of the Sonny Smith story at Auburn. It's a familiar tune here. Once in the Big East, Chipman found it necessary to seek every big time talent he could find with out regard to whether or not all the pieces would fit. Every Pitt game looks like an All Star affair.

It's been nearly seven years and three coaching changes since I last saw an Indiana State basketball team. At the time reclusive Larry Bird was leading the Sycamores to an unbeaten season a number one national rating and a Final Four. Those were pretty heady days in Terre Haute, IN. Now, coach Ron Greene is trying to put the pieces back together with a mix of promising young and a great scorer in John

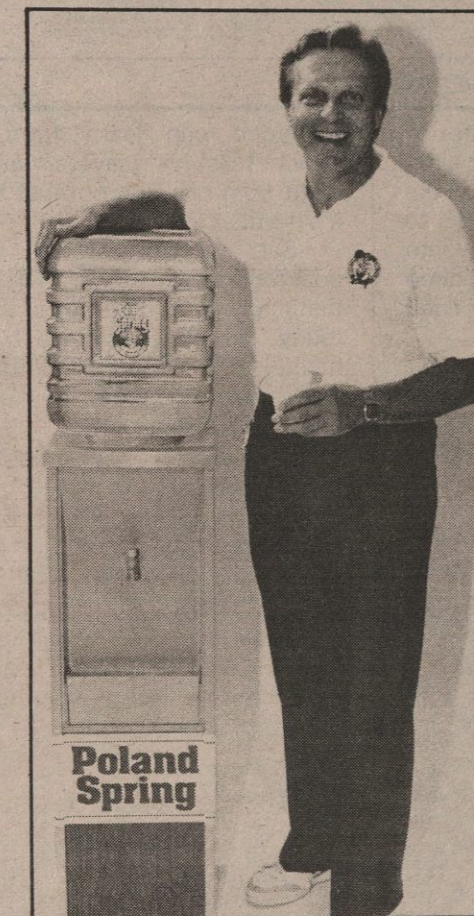
Sherman Williams. What happened to Indiana State, though, is a great lesson for all basketball coaches and fans. See, it's almost as important to capitalize on that once in a lifetime player after he's gone as when he's creating all the cheers. With the Final Four appearance in 1979 the

moment was right to put the program into position for a long and successful run. Money's easier to raise. Facilities and all the necessary amenities for a solid program can move off the planning boards at times like these. Sadly for ISU, it didn't happen. Then coach Bill Hodges seemed far

more interested in his status within the coaching community than in putting down the good building blocks. It will be a tough task for Greene, but he seems to be the right man. After all if you can get it done at Murray State, Indiana State's got to be a lot easier task....

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Celtics Classics

1977-78

Toughest Season the Celtics Have Endured

The 1977-78 season will not go down as one of the more memorable in the hallowed history of the Boston Celtics.

The epitome of efficiency and success just a few seasons earlier, the Celtics found themselves in utter disarray. On paper, Boston had some talent, but could never put it together.

Thirty-four games into the season, former Celtics great Tommy Heinsohn was fired as coach. He thus earned the dubious distinction of being the first Boston coach to ever lose his job during the season.

"I love the guy," Red Auerbach said at the time. "I was hoping I could stretch the thing out as long as I could, because I was hoping these monkeys would turn it around. But a change had to be made."

The Celtics made plenty of roster changes during that season. Eighteen players wore the green and white in '77-78, so bodies were coming and going on a reasonably regular basis.

When Heinsohn was given his walking papers, another former Celtics of repute, Tom Sanders, took over as head man. "Satch" had been an assistant.

Boston didn't fare much better under Sanders, and wound up the campaign with 32-50 record. It was the worst showing in Celtics history.

Through all the muck and mire of this miserable season, there was one bright spot. On April 9, 1978 at the Garden against the Buffalo Braves, John Havlicek played the last game of his NBA career.

Havlicek, one of the greatest players the NBA had (and has) ever seen, had announced his retirement in advance, so there was plenty of time for the Celtics to plan a gala afternoon for the venerable 38-year-old swingman.

Prior to the start of the contest, against the Buffalo Braves, Havlicek made one request of Sanders-- he wanted to play all 48 minutes.

"I began my career running, and I want to end it running," Havlicek said.

And Havlicek was off and running, following an eight-minute standing ovation by Garden fans during pre-game introductions. When he stopped he had accrued 29 points, 5 rebounds and 9 assists in the Celtics' 131-114 victory. The Ohio State graduate ended his career with 26,395 points and a 20.8 average in 16 years with Boston. Havlicek, a member of eight NBA championship teams, scored another 3,776 points in playoff competition.

John Havlicek's last game was the one bright spot.



'77-'78 Celtics just couldn't put it together.

During the halftime tribute to Havlicek, he was showered with gifts, including a \$40,000 camper from the Celtics. The NBA donated \$925 to Special Olympics, Havlicek's favorite charity. That dollar amount matched what Havlicek had piled up in fines during his stay in the NBA.

There may not have been a player more universally respected around the league than Havlicek.

"If I had a son and he was just like John," Auerbach said, "I'd be the happiest man in the world."

Said Rick Barry, another NBA great: "Havlicek is one player

everyone can learn from. Every coach tells his players watch and learn from him. It's not just his play, it's his desire."

Said Al Attles, the Warriors coach/general manager: "There aren't that many great attitudes in the game today. His coaches have been fortunate. Not many get a chance to work with someone of Havlicek's caliber. I'll miss his style."

Of course, Havlicek was revered by his teammates as well.

"An era in the NBA will change when he retires," Boston veteran guard Dave Bing said. "Fans will be

deprived of a special piece of entertainment in the future. He comes to play every night.

"I respected him as an opponent and I enjoyed him as a teammate," said Jo Jo White: I guess his body just told him it was time to go. I hated to see it."

Actually, Havlicek left the NBA the way he came in-- as a supremely productive player. Despite his "advanced" age, Havlicek was in better shape than most of the rookies in the league. This was one man who took care of himself all year long.

"John could've played a couple more years," Don Chaney said. "I'll miss him."

Chaney's assessment is correct. Havlicek undoubtedly could've lasted another two or three years, at least as a spot player, and even felt that way. But he merely felt it was time to leave the running, jumping, shooting and passing to others.

"It's been a long journey," Havlicek said. "You can't turn back the clock."

The clock was seemingly frozen at halftime, when a franchise and a league paid tribute to the man known as "Hondo".

"I was full of tears, it was emotional," Havlicek said. "Without a doubt, making that speech at halftime was the toughest thing I've had to try to do."

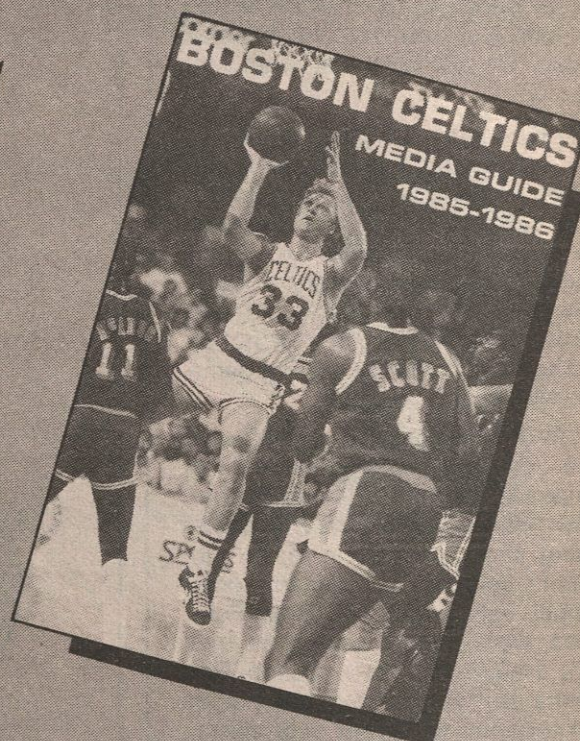
And the '77-'78 season was the toughest campaign the Celtics have had to endure. But the Havlicek send-off made it all worthwhile.

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Past and Present

Celtics Greats

Finally Back in Good Health

Rick Robey

Former Boston Celtics forward Rick Robey looks like one of those before and after pictures.

The 6-10 Robey, who spent 4½ years with the Celtics before a 1983 trade sent him to the Phoenix Suns, weighed as much as 260 pounds during his tenure with the Celtics. He's currently a svelter 240. Robey almost has the appearance of an aerobics instructor rather than a frontcourt player.

"People see," Robey says, "and they say, 'Rick, are you sick?'"

Not quite, but Robey's stay with the Suns has been plagued by injuries. He's had two serious knee injuries since coming West, and last year, missed all but four games with a torn achilles tendon. The weight-loss was part of Robey's regimen to recover from his ailments.

"It's been a good year physically," Robey says. "I'm finally back healthy and it feels good."

Robey says the tendon began to bother him late in the 1983-84 season, and the discomfort carried over into last year's training camp. Minor surgery didn't help the problem, so a long rest was prescribed. And it was long. Robey was in a cast for nine months and didn't do any running for 14 weeks.

Robey may be totally healthy, but he isn't particularly happy. Not only have the Suns been floundering all season, Robey has also been spending most of his time on the pine. He's averaging roughly a scant 3.0 points and 3.0 rebounds a night, in about 14 minutes a game.

I'm not getting to play quite as much as I'd hoped," Robey says. "The Suns appear to be going with the younger players. It's a matter of some more playing time, getting minutes and confidence, or going elsewhere where I can play more."

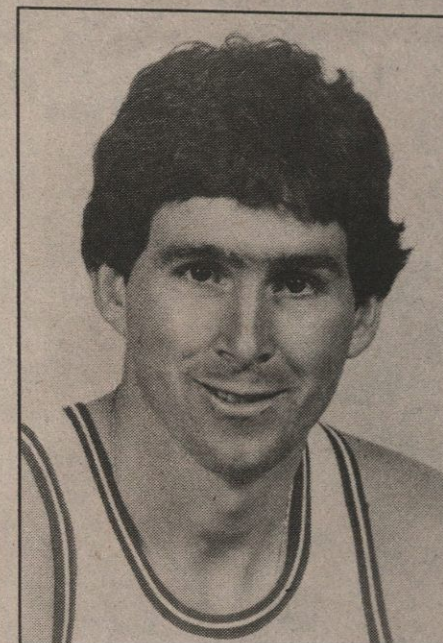
"I'll be a free-agent at the end of the season, so we'll see what happens."

Robey has just turned 30, which is a semi-advanced age for NBA players. However, even in light of his recent hurts, he doesn't feel as if his career is done just yet.

"The last two years have hurt me as far as getting playing time," Robey says. "Most big players don't come into their own until they're 31 or 32. I have confidence I can come back."

When Robey was with the Celtics (from mid 1978-79 to 1982-83), he was one of the most popular players on the team and remains one of the more well-liked people to ever wear the green and white.

So what happened? Boston shipped him for Phoenix Dennis Johnson, who promptly became a fulcrum of the Celtics. Meanwhile, Robey was



Rick Robey: On a Rollercoaster.

hit by an array of injuries and hasn't really contributed much to the Suns.

Robey is still reminded constantly by some less-than-feeling fans that the trade didn't work out for the Suns. Frankly, it's too bad this had to happen to a nice guy like Robey.

"It's been a rollercoaster for me at Phoenix," Robey says. "I've been asked about it a lot, and it's understandable."

"I'm not the one who made the trade. I'm sorry I've been hurt and not able to do the things that I can. Now that I'm healthy, the Suns haven't taken advantage of my strengths."

"The Suns were ready to move D.J.-- he and MacLeod weren't getting along."

Still, Robey doesn't regret being dispatched to Arizona. "Boston was good to me," Robey says. "They sent me to a class organization. Phoenix has always had good teams and good management."

Even though Robey no longer toils for Boston, it appears that he still has some Celtics blood flowing through his veins.

"Boston has always been my home as far as the NBA is concerned," Robey says. "I loved playing in Boston-- it was the highlight of my career. It's too bad when I came to Phoenix that the injuries did happen."

"I'll always remember my years with Boston. I have no hard feelings about the trade. It was a business deal."

Robey, a member of the 1982-83 NBA Champion Celtics, is best remembered for his sense of humor. He would exchanged barbs often with Larry Bird, who can come back

with some snappy rejoinders of his own. Once, Bird said anyone wanting tips on basketball from Robey should go to his camp -- a football camp.

It's true that Robey has always been a banger, even back in the days at the University of Kentucky, where he teamed with former Bullet Kevin Grevey to lead the Wildcats to an NCAA title in 1978.

The Indiana Pacers liked Robey enough to make him the league's third pick in the ensuing draft. If you take a look at Robey's lifetime record, you might think he's been a disap-

pointment, based on how early he was taken in the draft. But that's not the case, Robey says.

"I was never looked upon as a big scorer," Robey says. "I was a physical team player. I'd been on winning teams in college and could help whichever NBA club I was on."

Robey isn't sure which uniform he'll be wearing next year. Maybe he'll remain in Phoenix, maybe not. He'll take a good, hard look at the situation over the summer.

"It's been an up-and-down career, especially the last two or three years," Robey says. "I'll be curious to see what happens. Down deep, I want to make a new start somewhere else and take advantage of my talents."

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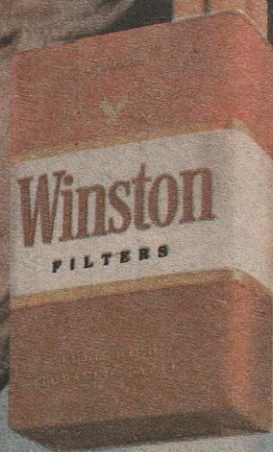
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